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The Chat

Vol. 79 WINTER 2015 No. 1

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The Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

THE CHAT

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Editor **Don Seriff, 7324 Linda Lake Drive**
Charlotte, NC 28215
chat@carolinabirdclub.org

General Field Notes Editors
North Carolina **Christina Harvey**
South Carolina **William Post**
Briefs for the Files **Josh Southern**
Associate Editor **Judy Walker**

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Cover: American Kestrel, 27 Jan 2015, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Jim Guyton.

2014 Spring Bird Counts in South Carolina

Steven J. Wagner
Department of Liberal Arts
Savannah College of Art and Design
Savannah, GA 31402
sjwagner@scad.edu

Seven spring migration counts were conducted in South Carolina this year. The 157 participants in the field and 36 at feeders reported 223 species, a high count for the past 5 years of the counts. Overall there were 26 species of warblers on the count, down from the high of 28 reported in 2012.

The two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Greenville County were a good find. These birds remained in the area and nested. Other highlights included several lingering waterfowl with 19 species recorded. Only 10 species were reported last year. Following this past winter's influx, the Charleston count reported numbers of both Surf Scoters (43) and Black Scoters (264) still in the area. They also had 4 Red-breasted Mergansers. Jasper County recorded 13 species of waterfowl including Gadwall (2), American Wigeon (2), Northern Shoveler (1), Northern Pintail (2), Greater Scaup (1), Lesser Scaup (2) and Ruddy Duck (16). Greenville participants reported the lone Ring-necked Duck. As in previous years, both Aiken and Jasper reported Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Notable among the 27 species of shorebirds reported were the 4 Piping Plovers in Charleston County and Pectoral Sandpipers reported in Greenville (5) and Jasper (1) counties.

Compiler's Comments

Greenville County: April 26, 129 species, 5335 individuals

Coordinator: Paul Serridge
4 Audrey Lane
Greenville, SC 29615

Participants: Derek Aldrich, Shelby Birch, Harold Carter, Marion Clark, Jeff Click, Steve Compton, Donnie Coody, Brad Dalton, Denise DuPon, Ed Enggasser, Ruth Enggasser, Chip Gilbert, Ernie Glenn, Dorothy Graves, JB Hines, Rob Hunnings, Jerry Johnson, Len Kopka, Yves Limpalair, Anthony Martin, Margaret McDavid, Merikay Pirrone, John Quinn, Barbara Serridge, Paul Serridge, Tonita Thompson, Dennis Trapp, Charles Webb, Judith Webb

Twenty-five GCBC members and 7 non-members participated in the 2014 Greenville County Spring Migration Count. We covered 15 areas and listed 129 species and 5335 individual birds. The 129 species equals the

previous record set in 2012. The 5335 figure is +/- an undetermined number but gives a good idea of the order of magnitude.

The 15 areas in no way covered the entire county and we missed out on data for several areas including Paris Mountain SP and Cedar Falls Park. Non-members actually led the counts in 4 sections. We owe them our gratitude. Three GCBC members led or participated in counts in more than one section. Thank you!

We benefitted from excellent birding weather all over the county – moderate temperatures, little to no wind, partly cloudy skies, and no rain.

Bird highlights:
The following were new additions to the total Spring counts list:
Ring-necked Duck
Pectoral Sandpiper
Cerulean Warbler
Rusty Blackbird

Spartanburg County: May 10, 113 species, 5303 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Doug Allen, Carole Anderson, Susan Bennett, Tom Broome, Marlyn Broome, Dan Bryant, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Alan Chalmers, Dan Codispoti, Cheryl Cooksey, Ed Donovan, Sharon Donovan, John Edmunds, Judy Edmunds, Ed Elam, Kathleen Elam, Roy Fowler, Pat Fowler, Onoosh Gahagan, Herb Kay, Jeanette Keepers, Erna McCormic, Moss Miller, Joe Mitchell, Roberta Mitchell, Nora Moore, Bill Myers, Mary Ann Myers, Glen Peterson, Daniel Phillips, Kathy Phillips, Robert Powell, Sandra Powell, Eva Pratt, Sam Pratt, Kelly Ruppuchi, Bob Scott, Kristen Taylor, Dan Wootton, Nancy Wootton, Peggy Yo

The Spartanburg 2014 Spring Count was down a bit at 113 species observed. And our warbler count was a modest 13 species. Our best bird was a breeding plumage Horned Grebe. May 10th is unusually late for this bird.

Special recognition should go to Herb Kay, an excellent birder, who is 100 years young this Spring.

Cherokee County: May 3, 90 species, 1458 individuals

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Doug Allen, David Campbell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Timothy Campbell, Claude Cobb, J. B. Hines, Jerry Johnson, Karla Lavender

The 2014 Cherokee County Spring Count saw a 50 % increase in species recorded. 2013 recorded 58 species, 2014 counters found 90.

Aiken County: May 10, 108 species, 3041 individuals

Coordinator: Anne Waters
1621 Apple Valley Drive
Augusta, GA 30906

Participants: Charlie Campbell, Meg Francoeur, Jennifer Holcomb, Brandon Heitkamp, Carl Huffman, Paul Koehler, Willie Malpass, Terry McGrath, George Reeves, Lois Stacey, Peter Stangel, Anne Waters, Alice Walker, Douglas Walker, Calvin Zippler

Congaree National Park: May 4, 72 species, 773 individuals

Coordinator: John Grego

Participants: Caroline Eastman, Hilda Flamholtz, Jon Flamholtz, John Grego, Jerry Griggs, Donna Slyce and 16 dawn chorus attendees

A Spring Count was held May 4 at Congaree National Park. Donna Slyce led a group of 16 participants on the Robin Carter Dawn Chorus Walk in the morning, while other groups covered the Bluff Trail and Sims Trail in the morning, and the eastern end of the park through the early afternoon. A total of 72 species were seen, though migrants in general were notably lacking. Dozens of cliff swallow nests were being constructed under the new US 601 bridge across the Congaree River.

Charleston/Berkeley Counties: May 4, 161 species, 14,123 individuals

Coordinator: Andy Harrison
35 Cross Creek Drive, Apt P-7
Charleston, SC 29412

Participants: Clint Ball, Cornelia Carrier, David Chamberlain, Hal Currey, Chris Davies, Edouard des Francs, Connie and Bob Drew, Judy, Reggie and Ted Fairchild, Virginia Flatau, Cindy Floyd, Pam Ford, Sheena Forte, Dennis Forsythe, Aaron Given, Andy Harrison, Nedra Hecker, Don Jones, Kevin Kalasz, Pete Laurie, Dan Lesesne, Patrick Markham, Mary-Catherine Martin, Keith McCullough, David McLean, Jr., Cathy and Carl Miller, Paul Nolan, Perry Nugent, Irvin Pitts, Kaylee Pollander, Jack and Julie Rogers, Allen Russell, Felicia Sanders, Peggy Schachte, Eva Scruggs, Abby Sterling, Nancy Swan, Murry Thompson, Jen McCarthey Tyrrell, Craig

Watson, John Weinstein, Marci White, Kathy and Bill Woolsey, and Josh Zalabak

The 2014 Charleston Spring Bird Count was held on May 4, 2014. There were 49 participants divided into 18 parties, who tallied 101.43 hours in the field. We observed 161 total species and 14,123 individuals (for a bird/party hour average of 139.2).

We enjoyed a beautiful day for this year's count, in stark contrast to last year's severe weather that resulted in cancellation by most of the boat parties. Skies were mostly clear throughout the day and there was no precipitation. Temperatures ranged from a pre-dawn low of about 59 degrees F to a somewhat warm afternoon high of 86 F. The species and individual totals both easily surpassed the 8-year averages of 149 and 8389, respectively. Our success can be attributed to a number of factors. First, we covered more areas this year (13) than ever before since I became compiler in 2006. All of the boat parties were active, and for the second year in a row we fielded a party in Fairlawn Plantation. The pleasant weather certainly helped, and on average parties spent longer hours in the field this year than last. Finally, there were a number of lingering winter species this year (particularly sea ducks), and adding good numbers of spring migrants and breeding species helped push both totals to high levels.

The Capers, Dewees and South Bulls parties all reported (and provided good details for) fairly large numbers of Black Scoters (264 in all), and the South Bulls party also reported 3 White-winged Scoters. The unusually harsh winter this year drove large numbers of sea ducks farther south than normal, and as I write this report in late May there are still scoters being observed off our coastal islands. We also did especially well with seabirds and shorebirds on the count this year. For example, our field parties reported 613 Royal Terns (8-year average 202.3), 311 Forster's Terns (109.9), 610 Black Skimmers (287.5), 1692 Semipalmated Plovers (644.6), 90 Marbled Godwits (3.4), 614 Red Knots (74.5), 260 Semipalmated Sandpipers (41.9), 1132 Dunlin (313), and 723 Short-billed Dowitchers (260.9). We fared reasonably well with woodland species, too. One group where numbers seemed a bit lower than normal was among the swallows: we reported only 44 Tree Swallows (412.6) and 137 Barn Swallows (180.3).

Other noteworthy count highlights included:

In the North Bulls area, leader Felicia Sanders and her group (Kevin Kalasz, Mary-Catherine Martin and Abby Sterling) observed 2 Pied-billed Grebes, 4 Least Bitterns, 23 Glossy Ibis, 6 Mottled Ducks, 22 Blue-winged Teal, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Piping Plover, 8 Black-necked Stilts, and 2 Chipping Sparrows.

David McLean and his party (Jack and Julie Rogers) observed 5 Least Bitterns, 134 Black Scoters, 3 White-winged Scoters, 3 White Ibis, 1 Hooded Merganser, 1 Swallow-tailed Kite, 3 Sora, 1 Great Horned Owl, and 1 Common Nighthawk in the South Bulls area.

On Capers Island, Hal Currey and his party (Chris Davies and Peggy Schachte) reported 65 Black Scoters, 1 Bufflehead, 2 King Rails, 500 Red Knots, and 300 Black Skimmers. They also added 1 Red-breasted Merganser and 1 Green Heron to the Intracoastal Waterway party list (both birds observed on Moise Island).

Kathy and Bill Woolsey observed 10 Wood Ducks, 2 Rock Pigeons, and 2 Blue-headed Vireos in the Laurel Hill area.

In the Cainhoy area, Andy Harrison and Kaylee Pollander observed 2 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, 12 Purple Martins, 3 American Robins, 2 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 1 Ovenbird, 3 Kentucky Warblers, and 1 Bachman's Sparrow.

Jen Tyrrell and Virginia Flatau reported 12 Cattle Egrets, 1 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and 20 Bobolinks in the Sewee Road area.

Perry Nugent and his party (Pam Ford and Allen Russell) observed 1 Swallow-tailed Kite, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 1 Wild Turkey, 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 4 Acadian Flycatchers, 30 Hooded Warblers, and 1 Yellow-breasted Chat in Ion Swamp. During pre-dawn owling they also reported 4 Eastern Screech-Owls, 12 Barred Owls and 2 Chuck-will's-widows.

Craig Watson and Dan Lesesne reported 18 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, 1 American Redstart, and 1 Savannah Sparrow in the Porcher's Bluff area.

In the Guerin's Bridge Road area, Don Jones and his party (Cornelia Carrier, Patrick Markham and Nancy Swan) observed 5 Wood Storks, 1 Loggerhead Shrike, and 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler.

In Fairlawn Plantation, David Chamberlain and his party (owner Edouard des Francs, Eva Scruggs, Murry Thompson and Marci White) observed 1 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 1 Wild Turkey, 4 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 2 Yellow-throated Vireos, 34 Prothonotary Warblers, 4 Yellow-breasted Chats, and 1 Chipping Sparrow.

In the Airport area, Paul Nolan and his party (Sheena Forte, Nedra Hecker and John Weinstein) observed 1 Common Loon, 8 Mississippi Kites, 2 Cooper's Hawks, 6 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 1 late Eastern Phoebe (seen by all in the party and well-described), 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 17 European Starlings, 1 White-throated Sparrow, and 27 House Finches. During the evening hours Dennis Forsythe spent time owling in this area, and he recorded 2 Wood Ducks, 1 Barred Owl and 3 Chuck-will's-widows.

On the Intracoastal Waterway, Clint Ball and his party (Keith McCullough and Josh Zalabak) reported 47 American Oystercatchers, 112 Willets, 80 Whimbrel, 90 Marbled Godwits, 77 Ruddy Turnstones, 19 Western Sandpipers, 8 Herring Gulls, 165 Forster's Terns, 15 Purple Martins, and 1 Yellow Warbler.

Finally, Dewees Island once again reported the highest species total (96) among the count areas this year. Cathy Miller and her party (Connie and Bob Drew, Judy, Reggie and Ted Fairchild, Cindy Floyd, Aaron Given, Pete Laurie, Carl Miller, and Irvin Pitts) observed 13 Green Herons, 2 Roseate

Spoonbills, 4 Mottled Ducks, 65 Black Scoters, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 9 Clapper Rails, 3 Piping Plovers, 15 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Solitary Sandpipers, 2 Common Terns, 3 Common Ground-Doves, 6 Marsh Wrens, 5 Gray Catbirds, 6 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 1 Scarlet Tanager, 1 Savannah Sparrow, and 1 Swamp Sparrow (details provided by Irvin Pitts).

Notable misses this year included: Northern Bobwhite, White-rumped Sandpiper, Black Tern, Northern Flicker, Black-and-white Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Seaside Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

I enjoyed serving as compiler and look forward to doing it again next year!

Jasper County: May 10, 138 species, 21358 individuals

Coordinator: Steve Wagner
313 E. 54th St.
Savannah, GA 31405

Participants: Steve Calver, Larry Carlile, Steve Wagner, and 5 Ogeechee Audubon Field Trip participants

Eight participants in three parties contributed to Jasper County's Spring Migration Count on May 10. Although not ideal, weather conditions were not challenging, with warm temperatures (70–88 degrees), partly cloudy skies and SSW winds increasing to 10-15 mph in the afternoon.

We only found 9 species of warblers, down from the 16 we had last year. We also had 13 species of waterfowl, including several that normally have left the area by this date. The most notable of these were Gadwall (2), American Wigeon (2), Northern Shoveler (1), Northern Pintail (2), Greater Scaup (1), Lesser Scaup (2) and Ruddy Duck (16).

Table 1. Spring 2014 bird counts in South Carolina

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck				1			7	8
Canada Goose	108	456	29	101		45		739
Wood Duck	46	8	2	32	8	18	2	116
Gadwall							2	2
American Wigeon							2	2
Mallard	71	79	2	16			3	171
Mottled Duck						14	56	70
Blue-winged Teal						22	23	45
Northern Shoveler							1	1
Northern Pintail							2	2
Ring-necked Duck	1							1
Greater Scaup							1	1
Lesser Scaup							2	2
Surf Scoter						43		43
Black Scoter						264		264
Bufflehead		2				1	1	4
Hooded Merganser	2					1		3

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Red-breasted Merganser						4		4
Ruddy Duck							16	16
Northern Bobwhite	7	1	4					12
Wild Turkey	14	7	7	6		2	1	37
Common Loon		1				1		2
Pied-billed Grebe	2					2		4
Horned Grebe		1						1
Wood Stork				14		20	8	42
Double-crested Cormorant	8	10	2	1		303	41	365
Anhinga				21	5	91	31	148
Brown Pelican						134		134
Least Bittern						10	1	11
Great Blue Heron	21	28	7	24	3	48	3	134
Great Egret	2	1		29	5	155	7	199
Snowy Egret						118	14	132
Little Blue Heron					2	18	2	22
Tricolored Heron						29	13	42
Cattle Egret				29		16	11	56
Green Heron	13	6		9		35	27	90
Black-crowned Night-Heron				1		15	3	19
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				7		2		9
White Ibis						3	36	39
Glossy Ibis						23	7	30
Roseate Spoonbill						2	30	32
Black Vulture	13	19	25	12	7	47	25	148
Turkey Vulture	72	38	24	24	6	139	39	342
Osprey	1	2	10		1	29	5	48
Swallow-tailed Kite						2	2	4
Mississippi Kite				12	7	28	5	52
Bald Eagle				2		17		19
Northern Harrier		1						1
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1				1		2
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	1	1		3		8
Red-shouldered Hawk	17	12	1	12	4	20	2	68
Broad-winged Hawk	2	2						4
Red-tailed Hawk	15	14	7	12		14	8	70
Clapper Rail						13	2	15
King Rail						2	2	4
Sora						4	1	5
Purple Gallinule							2	2
Common Gallinule				6		29	26	61
American Coot	3					5	22	30
Black-bellied Plover						206	200	406
Wilson's Plover						11	8	19
Semipalmated Plover						1692	551	2243
Piping Plover						4		4
Killdeer	22	25	17	20		10	28	122
American Oystercatcher						59		59
Black-necked Stilt						10	298	308
American Avocet							48	48
Spotted Sandpiper	13	15	1	8		89	2	128
Solitary Sandpiper	15	5	1	1	5	2	2	31
Greater Yellowlegs	2					11	4	17
Willet						169	43	212
Lesser Yellowlegs				3		18	293	314
Whimbrel						221		221
Marbled Godwit						90		90

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Ruddy Turnstone						141	21	162
Red Knot						614	2	616
Sanderling						95	6	101
Semipalmated Sandpiper						260	13584	13844
Western Sandpiper						19	4	23
Least Sandpiper				23		88	103	214
White-rumped Sandpiper							13	13
peep sp.						30		30
Pectoral Sandpiper	5						1	6
Dunlin						1132	662	1794
Stilt Sandpiper							1295	1295
Short-billed Dowitcher						723	416	1139
Long-billed Dowitcher							1	1
dowitcher sp.						25		25
Bonaparte's Gull						3		3
Laughing Gull						1276	74	1350
Ring-billed Gull	21					33		54
Herring Gull						12		12
Great Black-backed Gull						3		3
Least Tern						34	289	323
Gull-billed Tern						38	120	158
Caspian Tern						9	1	10
Black Tern							5	5
Common Tern						2		2
Forster's Tern						311	9	320
Royal Tern						613	2	615
Sandwich Tern						60		60
Black Skimmer						610	295	905
Rock Pigeon	8	127	24	40		2	3	204
Eurasian Collared-Dove		10		5				15
Mourning Dove	100	212	58	105	12	70	110	667
Common Ground-Dove						3	3	6
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		10		22	10	32	3	77
Barn Owl				1				1
Eastern Screech-Owl			1	4		4	1	10
Great Horned Owl	1	4	1	1		1		8
Barred Owl	1	3		9	8	16		37
Common Nighthawk		5				1	10	16
Chuck-will's-widow	8	5	3	27		6	4	53
Eastern Whip-poor-will	16	2	5	2	2			27
Chimney Swift	67	51	9	17	6	16	29	195
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	15	21	2	8	5	9	2	62
Belted Kingfisher	6	10	2	2		5		25
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	6	1	23	6	6	12	58
Red-bellied Woodpecker	62	57	9	74	26	80	12	320
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	1					2
Downy Woodpecker	20	29	3	16	7	16	4	95
Hairy Woodpecker	5	1						6
Red-cockaded Woodpecker						2		2
Northern Flicker	5	5	1	1				12
Pileated Woodpecker	29	9	2	27	18	21	3	109
American Kestrel		1	1					2
Peregrine Falcon						1		1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5	14	7	44	15	6	8	99
Acadian Flycatcher	8	14		27	21	5	1	76
Eastern Phoebe	5	33	9	15	2	1		65
Great Crested Flycatcher	34	29	8	103	19	271	29	493

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Eastern Kingbird	66	36	7	37	1	71	24	242
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	2							2
Loggerhead Shrike				1		1	3	5
White-eyed Vireo	33	16	8	80	24	31	17	209
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	6	3	9	3	2	7	31
Blue-headed Vireo	65					2		67
Red-eyed Vireo	186	46	23	48	28	63	8	402
Blue Jay	237	108	41	76	14	68	8	552
American Crow	168	193	95	78	8	94	4	640
Fish Crow	21	8	4	10	4	39	8	102
crow sp.						15		15
Common Raven	2							2
Horned Lark		1		1				2
Purple Martin	92	45	5	5		36	4	187
Tree Swallow	39	18		1		44	22	247
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	60	36	9	12	4	26	2	149
Bank Swallow		10						10
Cliff Swallow	12	771	340	38	60			1221
Barn Swallow	105	219	20	43	5	137	87	616
Carolina Chickadee	102	74	10	38	14	90	8	336
Tufted Titmouse	156	77	21	107	26	167	21	575
White-breasted Nuthatch	17	15	1	6	4	1	3	47
Brown-headed Nuthatch	15	10	5	25	7	28	6	96
House Wren	2	5						7
Marsh Wren						10		10
Carolina Wren	114	99	11	120	19	178	33	574
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	138	19		55	28	82	19	341
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	23							23
Eastern Bluebird	96	170	47	39		43	9	404
Swainson's Thrush	6							6
Hermit Thrush	2							2
Wood Thrush	30	10	5	1	8			54
American Robin	240	163	58	13	12	4	3	493
Gray Catbird	19	4	3	4	5	11	1	47
Northern Mockingbird	78	149	50	59	1	63	33	433
Brown Thrasher	48	74	13	23	1	23	16	198
European Starling	69	171	63	92		27	6	428
Cedar Waxwing	77	125		5		10	194	411
Ovenbird	47	4	1	2	4	1		59
Worm-eating Warbler	45	4						49
Louisiana Waterthrush	11	4	3		1			19
Northern Waterthrush	1						1	2
Black-and-white Warbler	20	5	1	9	2			37
Prothonotary Warbler	3		1	28	16	50	5	103
Swainson's Warbler	1			4	1			6
Kentucky Warbler		2		5	1	3		11
Common Yellowthroat	50	14	7	17	7	63	22	180
Hooded Warbler	91	5	4	9	28	51	6	194
American Redstart	17	4		17	3	1		42
Cape May Warbler	4							4
Cerulean Warbler	1							1
Northern Parula	34	11	1	99	61	157	26	389
Blackburnian Warbler	2							2
Yellow Warbler	2			1		1		4
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1							1
Blackpoll Warbler	1							1

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
Black-throated Blue Warbler	19		3		18	3		43
Palm Warbler	18							18
Pine Warbler	33	21	9	74	15	131	23	306
Yellow-rumped Warbler	170	16	22		2	6		216
Yellow-throated Warbler	4	11	1	43	9	40	18	126
Prairie Warbler	3		2	12		16	3	36
Black-throated Green Warbler	50		2					52
Yellow-breasted Chat	9	12	4	25		5	5	60
Eastern Towhee	79	43	8	60	5	97	15	307
Bachman's Sparrow				2		1	5	8
Chipping Sparrow	75	108	26	17	5	3	3	237
Field Sparrow	38	49	23					110
Savannah Sparrow	17		8			2	3	30
Grasshopper Sparrow	9	11	5					25
Song Sparrow	31	10	2					43
Swamp Sparrow	5					1		6
White-throated Sparrow	71	7				1		79
White-crowned Sparrow	9							9
Dark-eyed Junco	4							4
Summer Tanager	4	6	3	62	18	37	13	143
Scarlet Tanager	51	6	4	2	3	1		67
Northern Cardinal	225	239	22	205	40	331	63	1125
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	19	2	2					23
Blue Grosbeak	8	14	2	23	3	10	8	68
Indigo Bunting	30	37	9	85	18	12	29	220
Painted Bunting				8	1	86	21	116
Bobolink	7	10	2			24	161	204
Red-winged Blackbird	240	62	15	37		243	758	1355
Eastern Meadowlark	36	38	21	4				99
Rusty Blackbird	1							1
Common Grackle	95	201	81	64	11	75	53	580
Boat-tailed Grackle						127	155	282
Brown-headed Cowbird	52	67	15	33	4	62	28	261
Orchard Oriole	5	7		18	1	28	12	71
Baltimore Oriole	2	2						4
Purple Finch		3						3
House Finch	33	79	6	15		38		171
American Goldfinch	270	71	8	12	10			371
House Sparrow	22	46	8	23				99
Species	129	113	90	108	72	161	138	223
Total individuals	5335	5303	1458	3041	773	14123	21358	51391
Regular Count								
Hours foot	74	35.5	15	31.8	14.5	62.75	3.5	237.05
Hours car	17.25	17	12	17.5		21.67	21.6	107.02
Hours boat		3				9.43		12.43
Hours canoe/kayak	1.75			2				3.75
Hours bike	6	0.5	2					8.5
Hours other (golf cart)						5.75		5.75
Miles foot	41.5	29	10.5	18.5	9.5	37.5	2.35	148.85
Miles car	237.5	264	235	151		156.1	156.7	1200.3
Miles boat		12				35.63		47.63
Miles canoe/kayak	1.5			1.75				3.25
Miles bike	20	8	3					31
Miles other (golf cart)						13.27		13.27

	Gree	Spar	Cher	Aike	Cong	Charl	Jasp	Total
# Regular parties	18	15	6	11		17	3	70
# Regular observers	34	21	9	15	22	48	8	157
#Species	119	103	86	108	72	160	137	
#Individuals	3162	4449	1448	2867	773	14085	21356	48140
Feeder Watch								
Hours Feeder Watch		55		7				62
#Feeder Watchers		33		3				36
#Feeder Stations		19		7				26
#Species		69		21				90
#Individuals		835		84				919
Nocturnal								
Hours Nocturnal	2	2	2	3		1.83	1	11.83
Miles Nocturnal		2	.4	34.2		4.5	0.5	45.5
#parties nocturnal	2	3	2	3		2	1	13
#observers nocturnal	4	4	3	4		4	1	20
#Species	3	5	4	22		8	2	44
#Individuals	18	19	10	65		38	2	152
Time Start	0400	0600	0800	0530	0530	0500	0545	
Time Stop	1800	2200	2200	1700	1430	2045	1650	
Temperature								
Pre-Dawn	60	64	51	64		59	70	
Dawn	60	64	50			59	72	
AM	65	75	62			70	77	
Noon	75	79	70			81	84	
PM	81	74	75	87		86	88	
Sunset	76	71	70	85		75	82	
Night	70	70	66			70		
Wind								
Pre-Dawn	0	0	W5			0-5		
Dawn	0	0	0			0-5	S7	
AM	0	SW	NNW6			5-10	SSW10	
Noon	0	SW	NW5			0-5	SSW12	
PM	0	SW	W10			5-10	SW12	
Sunset	0	0	SW2			5-10	SSE14	
Night	0	SW	0			5-10		
% Clouds								
Pre-Dawn	30	0	0			0-15		
Dawn	30	0	0			0-15		
AM	70	60	PC	30		0-15	40	
Noon	50	80	PC			0-15	50	
PM	100	100	PC	70		0-15	50	
Sunset	100	100	PC			0-15	60	
Night	100	100	PC			0-15		
Precipitation								
Pre-Dawn	0	0	0	0		0	0	
Dawn	0	0	0	0		0	0	
AM	0	0	0	0		0	0	
Noon	0	0	0	0		0	0	
PM	0	light	0	0		0	0	
Sunset	0		0	0		0	0	
Night	0		0	0		0	0	

2014 Annual Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

Z. Taylor Piephoff[1], Chair, Keith E. Camburn, Richard J. Davis , H. Douglas Pratt, Harry E. LeGrand, Jr., Jeffrey S. Pippen, Steven P. Shultz, Nathan A. Swick, Michael H. Tove

[1] *13339 Mint Lake Drive, Matthews, NC, 28105. piephoffT@aol.com*

The make-up of the 2014 North Carolina Bird Records Committee saw no changes in membership from 2013.

Accepted as Valid. The following reports were judged to be acceptable.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) (14-01). The North Carolina Bird Records Committee (NCBRC) unanimously accepted a written report with photographs supplied by Rangel Diaz of a single bird that was present for several weeks at a feeder in Manteo (*Dare*), seen and photographed by scores of birders. The species is already on the Definitive List based on an accepted report from the mountains and an accepted photographically documented report from the Piedmont (LeGrand et al. 2014). With this report, the species has been accepted from all three geographic regions of the state.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) (14-02). An inland Piedmont report from 2 September 2012 with photographs of this species from Durham County from Josh Sims was reviewed and unanimously accepted. Though the photographs and written report could not conclusively rule out other *Fregata* species, the NCBRC accepted the report to species as submitted. The NCBRC felt the odds of the bird being anything other than *F. magnificens* were long enough to allow for acceptance to that species. The species is on the Definitive List based on numerous reviewed records from the coast. This is the second accepted record of this species away from the coastal region (LeGrand et al. 2014).

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) (14-03). A second-year male of this species was captured and banded 11 January 2014 at a residence in Oriental (*Pamlico*). The NCBRC reviewed a written report along with in-hand diagnostic photographs from Susan Campbell. The report was unanimously accepted. The species is already on the Definitive List based on accepted records with photos of birds from Manteo (*Dare*) and Catawba County (LeGrand et al. 2014).

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*) (14-04). An immature / sub-adult bird of this species was seen four miles offshore of Avon (*Dare*) on 22 February 2014. The NCBRC unanimously accepted a written report and photographs by Jeff Pippen. The species is already on the Definitive

List based on three previously accepted records with photographs, all from Dare County (LeGrand et al. 2014)

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) (14-05). Paul Guris photographed and provided written details on five individuals seen at Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge (*Hyde*) on 10 March 2014. The NCBRC unanimously accepted the report. The species is already on the Definitive List with three previous records from two coastal counties (LeGrand et al. 2014).

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) (14-07). An individual of this species was present at the Fort Fisher Aquarium (*New Hanover*) from 12 October to 18 October 2013. The NCBRC unanimously accepted photographs from Sam Cooper (12 October) and Bruce Smithson (17 October). The species is on the Definitive List by virtue of numerous records from four coastal counties and one record from the Piedmont (LeGrand et al. 2014).

Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's) (*Calonectris diomedea diomedea*) (14-08). The NCBRC reviewed an account of this recognized sub-species by Mike Tove, with photos by Nate Swick, Steve Howell, Ryan O'Donnell, and Douglas Koch; all of which were taken in offshore North Carolina waters. The NCBRC unanimously accepted all the photos as depicting *C. d. diomedea.* The NCBRC recognizes the need to review reports of recognized subspecies' where elevation to full status by the A.O.U. is likely or imminent. By acknowledgment of the occurrence of *C. d. diomedea* in North Carolina, the NCBRC places the subspecies on the Definitive Subspecies List.

Whimbrel (Eurasian) (*Numenius phaeopus phaeopus/alboaxillaris*) (14-09). The NCBRC reviewed and unanimously accepted photographs of an individual from the European subspecies' group in flight, taken between Avon and Buxton (*Dare)* 6 April 2011 by Eric Frey. There are a handful of reports from the coast of this form but none have been reviewed by the NCBRC until now (LeGrand et al. 2014). Since a definitive subspecies was unable to be discerned from the photos, the NCBRC presumes the record *N. p. phaeopus* based on geographic probability. As in (14-08), the NCBRC feels this form is in line for species elevation by the A.O.U. and thus places presumed *N. p. phaeopus* on the Definitive Subspecies List.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) (14-12). The NCBRC reviewed a written report by Mike Dorcas and photos by Dorcas and Doran Smith, and an opinion from Jennifer Gordon, a local waterfowl rehabber, of three birds that appeared 18 June, 2014 and lingered a few days at a residential pond in Indian Trail (*Union*). The NCBRC voted 8 AV (Accept as Valid) and 1 QO (Questionable Origin) to accept the photos. Those voting AV felt the birds' occurrence fit the pattern of date and behavior for natural occurrences of this species in the state. Though this species is already

on the Definitive List, this is the first accepted record from the Piedmont region, adding to multiple records from the coast and a mountain record from *Henderson* 10 June, 2013 (LeGrand et al. 2014).

Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*) (14-16). The NCBRC unanimously accepted photos taken by Todd Arcos of an immature bird at Richland Balsam (*Jackson*) on 13 September, 2014. This represents the third accepted record for the state, following two accepted records from the coast; a bird photographed on the Outer Banks in November 1992 (*Dare*), and a bird salvaged as a specimen from an offshore vessel in 1999 (LeGrand et al. 2014). The species is already on the Definitive List.

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) (14-17). A remarkable report of an alternate plumaged adult seen 15 May, 2014 at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal (*Carteret*) was received from Laetitia Desbordes. The report included an excellent written description in addition to remarkable photographs which featured close-ups of the spread toes on the foraging bird. Both were unanimously accepted by the NCBRC. As this is the first record of this species from the state and is documented with definitive photos, the species is added to the Definitive List.

Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) (*Junco hyemalis oreganus* Group) (14-18). The NCBRC unanimously (8 AV) accepted photographs supplied by Jessie Dale of an adult male of the "Oregon Group" of dark-eyed junco at a feeder in Linville (*Avery*) on 2 November, 2014. Though there are multiple records of this group from across the state (Legrand et al. 2014), this is the second report reviewed and accepted by the NCBRC. The Oregon Group is on the Definitive Subspecies list.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) (14-19). By virtue of a newly created acceptance category for bird records, NE (Not Established), the NCBRC reviewed photos of three birds by Kent Fiala and Steve Shultz from the eastern portion of the state (*Jones*) from January 2005. The NCBRC also reviewed emails from the US Fish and Wildlife Service confirming the birds were part of a federally sanctioned re-introduction program. The Chair received votes from eight members of the NCBRC, all of whom voted NE (Not Established). The species is therefore placed on the Not Established List.

Not Accepted. The following report was judged to be unacceptable by a majority of NCBRC members.

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*) (14-15). A written report of a second winter bird seen in August 2014 in coastal Brunswick County of this species was reviewed by the NCBRC. One member voted AV (Accept as Valid),

six voted ID (Inadequately Documented), and two voted US (Unacceptable Sighting); resulting in an unaccepted report. While even several voting "not to accept" felt the report was indeed compelling, they felt the written description failed to eliminate juvenile Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) which is numerous on area beaches in August. Others felt the written description fell short of the desired level of documentation to result in a first state record.

The NCBRC also reviewed reports of three additional species which received no AV (Accept as Valid) votes. It is the policy of the NCBRC to not publish details, including the reported name, of any species which received no acceptance votes. The NCBRC feels that exercise serves no useful purpose while putting the name of a species in print where it may be indexed in *The Chat.* A list of all the species reviewed can be seen at http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/brc/NC/reports.html. Finally, the NCBRC received three reports of commonly occurring species that are not on the Review List, and one report that was subsequently withdrawn due to a change in identification by the reporter.

Summary

With this round of voting, Common Ringed Plover is added to the Definitive List, Whooping Crane is added to the Not Established List, (Eurasian) Whimbrel and Cory's (Scopoli's) Shearwater are added to the Definitive Subspecies List. The total number of species from North Carolina is now 476 on the Accepted List of which 461 are Definitive (net gain of one species, not including subspecies), two are considered Not Established (gain of one species), and 13 are Provisional.

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2014 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

Chris Hill[1], Chair, Gif Beaton, Jeff Click, Aaron Given, Lex Glover, Keith McCullough, Irvin Pitts, William Post, and Steve Wagner

[1] *Biology Department, Coastal Carolina University, P.O. Box 261954, Conway, SC. chill@coastal.edu*

In 2014, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee (SCBRC) took action on 34 new reports of which 28 were accepted, 5 not accepted and 1 recommended for outside review. We also voted a second and final time on 2 reports for which the original votes had been inconclusive and we had obtained comment by outside experts. Those two reports were not accepted in the second vote. There was one additional report that was withdrawn by the submitter before a vote. The committee also clarified the status of two seabirds with published reports suggesting South Carolina occurrence, and the committee voted on a definition of South Carolina offshore waters.

The 2014 submissions added two species to South Carolina's Main Species List, Fea's Petrel and Crested Caracara. The 2014 submissions also moved three species, Harlequin Duck, Little Gull and Alder Flycatcher, from the Provisional 1 section of the state list (accepted, but without physical evidence such as a specimen, photo or sound recording) to the Definitive List, based on photographs for the first two species and a definitive sound recording for the third. Barolo Shearwater (formerly appearing on the state list as Little Shearwater) was removed from the list as the specimen on which the record was based proved to be a misidentified Audubon's Shearwater. The Main Species list is thus brought to 430 species. The most recent version of the list is available online at http://carolinabirdclub.org/brc.

In 2014, we changed from numbering incoming reports by month and year of submission, and began simply numbering them by year of submission and order of receipt (2014-001, 2014-002 etc.). We also began posting reports on line, voting more frequently, and posting the results of each vote quickly at the "Recent and Current Reports to the South Carolina Bird Records Committee" page (see link at http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/brc/). Committee membership was unchanged from 2013.

The following report details actions taken by the SC Bird Records Committee in 2014.

Pelagic Boundaries

The SCBRC voted to adopt the "closest point of land" or CPOL standard to determine what ocean waters are considered within our purview. Specifically, we recognize birds seen inside the 200 mile federal economic exclusion zone, and closer to SC land than to land of any other state, as being in South Carolina waters. Georgia to our south adopted CPOL in 2012 (Beaton et al. 2012) so we are in agreement with them. The North Carolina BRC has not yet adopted a particular definition (T. Piephoff, pers. comm.).

Compared to some past systems (like extending state borders due east into the ocean) the CPOL criterion generally allocates more area to states with convex coastlines like Massachusetts and North Carolina and less to those with concave coastlines like Georgia and Delaware. For South Carolina, this means that boundaries of our offshore waters extend generally southeast rather than east (Fig.1). A more thorough discussion of offshore boundaries can be found in Beaton et al. (2012).

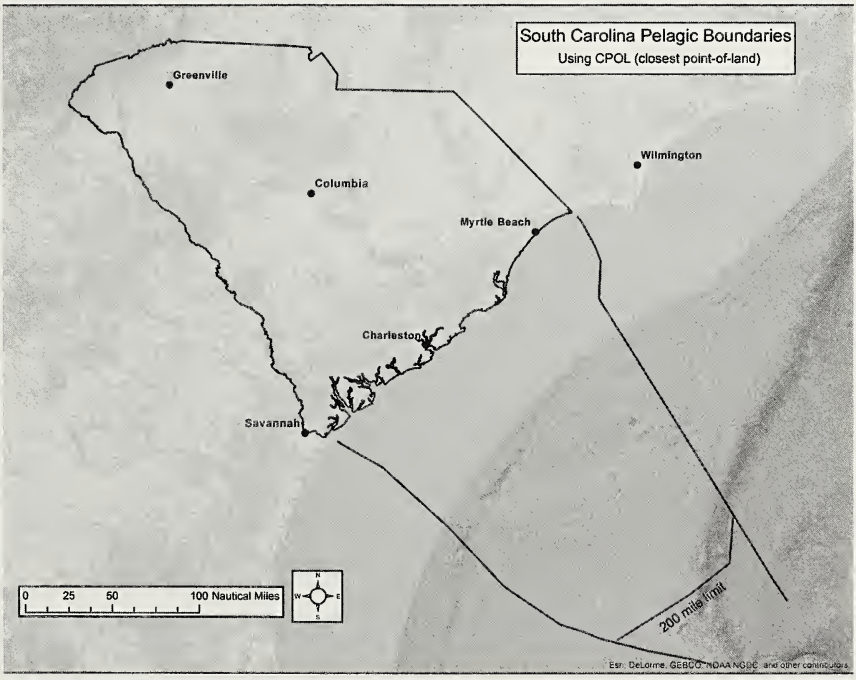

Figure 1. Adopted South Carolina Pelagic Boundaries.

Clarification of status of published report - Bermuda Petrel

A recently published update of the status of Bermuda Petrel (Madieros et al. 2013), mentioned a 1975 sighting in SC waters (Wingate et al. 1998). Ned Brinkley kindly supplied the committee with a scan of the 1998 article by Wingate and others. Correspondence between CH and Todd Hass, one of the original observers, established the location of that sighting as 32.66° N, 75.87° W. That location is approximately 170 miles from the nearest part of South Carolina, but only 135 miles from Cape Lookout, North Carolina, so the report is from what we now consider North Carolina waters. South Carolina is still without a confirmed record of Bermuda Petrel.

Clarification of status of historical report - Little Shearwater/Barolo Shearwater

The committee voted to remove Barolo Shearwater (formerly on the list as Little Shearwater) from the South Carolina list. The species was published in Post and Gauthreaux (1989) due to an 1883 specimen with location listed as Sullivan's Island, Charleston County, SC. That specimen is extant, housed at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, MCZ #220051. The specimen was reidentified by Steve Howell as an Audubon's Shearwater (Howell 2012). This re-identification was confirmed to the satisfaction of the committee during correspondence with Howell and MCZ collection manager Jeremiah Trimble.

Accepted reports

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) (2014-014) This report from Jim Jordan included excellent photographs of a Brant seen on 19 December 2006 from Kiawah Island. Brant are rare winter visitors to South Carolina.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (2014-015) and (2014-016) Aaron Given submitted reports of two different European Wigeons, each documented by descriptions and definitive photos. The first report was of a male at Donnelly Wildlife Management Area, Colleton County, on 17 February 2014. The second was of another male at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston County, on 25 February 2013. European Wigeon are rare visitors to the South Carolina coast, and casual inland (Post and Gauthreaux 1989).

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (2014-013) Ritch Lilly photographed a drake Harlequin Duck at the Second Avenue Pier in Myrtle Beach, Horry County on 13 February 2005, and shared the photos with the committee. The bird was seen on multiple occasions that winter. These photos provide the first physical evidence of the species in South Carolina and move Harlequin Duck to the definitive list. Post and Gauthreaux (1989) list seven reports through 1986 and McNair and Post (1993) add another 9 reports, but this was the first of Harlequin Duck voted on by the bird records committee.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) (2014-021) and (2014-22) The upstate experienced an influx of unusual waterbirds in the winter of 2013-14. Derek Aldrich submitted written descriptions to document two different White-winged Scoters, a female at Lake Robinson in Greer from 14 to 22 January 2014, and a male at the same location on 19 February 2014.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) (2014-025) Aaron Given submitted an excellent description and diagnostic photo of a Red-necked Grebe seen by many observers at Kiawah Island between 4 and 8 Feb. 2014.

Fea's Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*) (2014-034) Keith McCullough submitted a description, with accompanying photographs by Steve Compton, showing a bird seen about 85 miles off Charleston at 31.6374° N, -79.2169° W on 10 June 2013. The photographs are sufficiently detailed to eliminate other candidate species to the committee's satisfaction. This report therefore adds Fea's Petrel to South Carolina's definitive list.

American White Pelican (*Pelicanus erythrorhynchos*) (2014-023) The committee accepted a written description by Derek Aldrich of a bird seen at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville County from 21-24 November 2013. White Pelicans are casual inland in South Carolina, with Post and Gauthreaux listing only five previous records.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) (2014-018), (2014-019), and (2014-020) Aaron Given submitted descriptions and definitive photographs to document three sightings of Snowy Plovers, all at Kiawah Island. These sightings happened in the winter of 2008-2009 (27 February to 20 March), the winter of 2009-2010 (15 December to 27 January) and on 10 August 2010. The first record of Snowy Plover for South Carolina was in 1992 at North Island (McNair and Post 1993; Carter and Worthington 1994). The three sightings at Kiawah constitute the second, third and fourth accepted reports of the species. A further report to the committee on a bird seen at south Litchfield Beach was said to have been sent for outside review (Glover et al. 2002), but there is no record of a final resolution of that report.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) (2014-030) Brian Penney submitted a good description and diagnostic photographs of a Ruff observed at Bear Island WMA, Colleton County, on 22 March 2014. There are at least 9 previous accepted reports of this species in South Carolina (McNair and Post 1993; Worthington 1993; Worthington et al. 1997; Slyce et al. 2009). The committee is aware of other unpublished reports of this rare species in recent years and encourages observers to submit further sightings.

Dovekie (*Alle alle*) (2014-026) Aaron Given submitted a description and diagnostic photographs of a Dovekie picked up alive but emaciated on 9 March 2011 at Kiawah Island, and which died soon thereafter. The committee has accepted 7 Dovekie reports in the last 9 years, and Post and Gauthreaux (1989) list 14 others.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (2014-004, 2014-

005) Paul Serridge and Chris Hill independently submitted reports of a bird photographed at the Conway Wastewater Treatment Plant, Horry County, on 9 January 2014 (also seen for several weeks following that date). This is apparently the fourth well-substantiated report of the species (Post and Gauthreaux 1989; McNair and Post 1993; Pitts et al. 2012). As with Ruff, the committee is aware of further unpublished reports of the species and encourages further submissions.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) (2014-007) A photograph of a bird at Huntington Beach State Park by visiting birder Dave Russell, taken on 13 October 2007, was submitted on Russell's behalf by Chris Hill. Although the photo is blurry, it is definitive and adds Little Gull to the definitive list. Prior to this report, the committee had accepted two sight reports and Post and Gauthreaux (1989) accepted one other.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) (2014-002) Reported by Chris Hill from the Horry County Landfill, with photograph from 6 January 2014. This species, while not recorded every year, has been found with some regularity at this site in recent years.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) (2014-035) An injured bird was picked up on 9 December 2014 in Columbia and taken to the Carolina Wildlife Center, where it was photographed and treated. McNair and Post (1993) say "only four reports since a verified record from York Co. in 1954," and there is one accepted record of a calling bird on a Christmas Bird Count (Worthington et al. 1997).

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) (2015-001) During a vulture feeding and observation program at the Center for Birds of Prey in Awendaw, this bird appeared and was seen and photographed by the participants. Keith McCullough submitted a report with definitive photographs and an excellent description of the bird's appearance and behavior. Crested Caracara has been on the South Carolina Provisional II list (which covers published records of uncertain provenance) based on two sight records from 1 May 1943 and 26 November 1977. However, in the last decade, extralimital and apparently wild vagrant Crested Caracaras have turned up from Washington, Oregon and California on the west coast to the northern tier of states in the east and into Atlantic Canada (though, until recently, less often in the southeast). The Awendaw bird, with no visible tags or markings, was considered by the committee to have been a wild bird.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) (2014-031) Linda Montgomery submitted a description with an accompanying sound recording of a singing bird seen and heard on 17 and 18 May 2014 at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility in Pickens County. Three previous accepted records, some with photographs (Pitts et al. 2012; Hill et al. 2014), left this species on the Provisional I list due to the difficulty of conclusive species identification from a photograph. This recording now moves Alder Flycatcher to the Definitive List.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (2014-029) Visiting out-of-state birder Carl Engstrom obtained and submitted identifiable photographs of a bird at Savannah NWR, seen there from 9-14 March 2014. This is the sixth accepted record of the species for South Carolina.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (2014-011) Diane Rand submitted excellent photographs of a bird that frequented a feeder in Okatie from 13 January to 5 February 2014.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) (2014-010) KC Foggin shared a photograph from 16 February 2008 of an American Tree Sparrow that visited her feeder in Socastee, Horry County, that winter. American Tree Sparrrow is a rare winter visitor in South Carolina.

Non-accepted reports

White-crowned Pigeon (2014-008) Along with the reports of Crested Caracara above and Black-billed Magpie below, this report of White-crowned Pigeon, from 26 January 2014 at Bulls Island, occasioned extensive discussion and comment by the committee. The written report described brief binocular and scope views of a perched bird, and included comments from three observers present. The well-presented account included several field marks consistent with the identification of White-crowned Pigeon. On the other hand, domestic and feral Rock Pigeons are known to occur at Bulls Island and are hugely variable, and White-crowned Pigeons are not a species with a documented pattern of long distance vagrancy. The vote by the committee was 4 to accept, 5 not to accept (insufficently documented).

Northern Goshawk (10-13-19) This written report of a sighting from Folly Beach, Charleston County, on 26 October 2013, received a split vote last year, and was therefore sent to outside experts for comment, after which it received a second vote from the committee. In the second vote the committee voted unanimously that the report was insufficiently documented to accept.

Black-billed Magpie (2014-028) This report with excellent photographs came from Beaufort County, 13 March 2014. This report presented both identification questions (Black-billed Magpie vs European Magpie) and obvious issues of provenance, since Magpies are kept as pets in many places and could conceivably benefit from ship-assisted travelling. The report received two ID votes (insufficient documentation to certainly establish which species was involved) 6 votes for QO (questionable origin) and one for NE (introduced, not established).

Townsend's Warbler (2014-006) This report was a written description of a very brief view of a warbler on Bulls Island on 5 January 2014. The report received one vote in favor, 8 against acceptance (seven "insufficiently documented," two "misidentified"). While some points of the description

supported Townsend's Warbler, the very brief sighting was not considered sufficient to eliminate Black-throated Green Warbler by some, and not sufficient to establish the occurrence of Townsend's Warbler in the state by most.

Common Redpoll (2014-009) This report from a feeder in Horry County was not accepted as the committee members felt other possible species were not conclusively eliminated.

Northern Goshawk (2014-033). This report of a sighting in Beaufort on 7 August 2014, which included a blurry photograph, was judged insufficiently documented, as it failed to eliminate other more common species.

Clarification of status of two historical reports

Bermuda Petrel (no record number – evaluation of published report).

Little/Barolo Shearwater (no record number – deletion from South Carolina list based on reevaluation of historical record)

Unresolved reports

Certain split votes, according to committee bylaws, require the soliciting of input from outside reviewers, followed by a re-vote by the committee. The following reports are awaiting outside review.

Red-necked Grebe (2014-024)

Acknowledgements

The committee thanks all the observers who submitted reports. Your actions increase our understanding of bird occurrence in the state. We thank Steve Mlodinow and Dennis Paulson for comments on unresolved reports from previous years, Steve Howell and Jeremiah Trimble for forwarding details about the misidentified shearwater specimen, and Ned Brinkley and Todd Hass for their help with the 1975 Bermuda Petrel sighting.

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Critique of Early Reports of Snowy Owls (*Bubo scandiacus*) from the Carolinas: 1737 to 1872

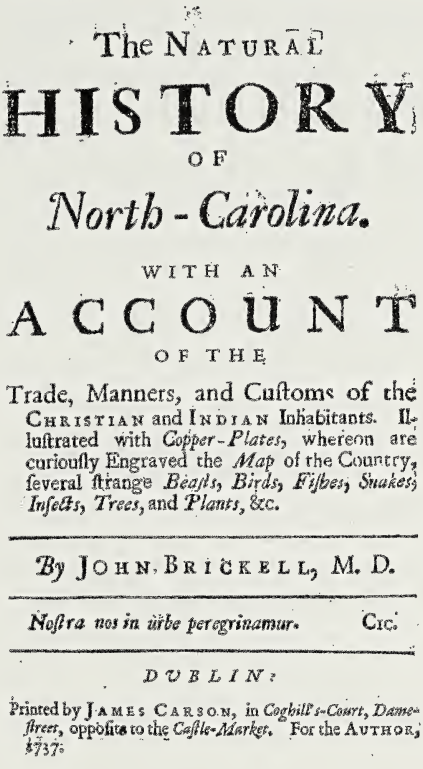
Marcus B. Simpson, Jr.
P.O. Box 1427 Hendersonville, NC 28793
mbsmjw63@gmail.com

The Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) is a circumpolar resident of North America and Eurasia. Individual birds migrate south into the northern tier of states during the winter months, occasionally in large numbers and sporadically ranging into the southeastern US. The recent influx during the winter of 2013-2014 was one of the largest irruptions on record in the United States, with at least twenty individuals recorded in the Carolinas (Don Seriff, pers. comm.; Southern 2014).

Snowy owl reports associated with the Carolinas date back to the 1700s, but at least five of these have escaped notice or critical scrutiny in the modern ornithological literature. None of the five reports were mentioned by late 19th century compilations, such as Atkinson (1887) or Smithwick (1897). Twentieth century publications on the Carolinas, including Pearson et al. (1919, 1942, 1959), Wayne (1909), and Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949, 1970), gave no notice of these particular records. A critical review of the five accounts reveals interesting examples of muddled plagiarism (Brickell 1737), insufficient detail (Bartram, 1791; Curtis, ca 1867), questionable identification (Pennant 1795) and adequate documentation (Kiger 1872).

The earliest account is from John Brickell, whose *Natural History of North-Carolina* (1737) lists four types of owl as occurring in the state (Fig. 1) Given his long recognized propensity for plagiarism, Brickell's report should be examined for originality as much as for accuracy (Sparks 1826; Adams 1962; Lefler 1967; Simpson and Simpson 1977). Much of the content in his *Natural History* was appropriated, entirely without acknowledgment, from John Lawson's *A New Voyage to Carolina* (1709) (Fig. 2). The text of Brickell's "White" owl was indeed taken largely from Lawson's "Brown Owl", but the portion of Brickell's account that clearly describes a Snowy Owl was a nearly unaltered transcription from one of Rev. John Clayton's five letters to the Royal Society of London.

Clayton served as rector of James City Parish at Jamestown VA in 1684-86, and, upon his return to England, presented his observations on the natural and human history of tidewater Virginia in a series of reports ("letters") that were subsequently published in the *Philosophical Transactions*. (Berkeley and Berkeley 1965). As with so many of his thefts from Lawson's *New Voyage*, Brickell lifted the text from Clayton (1693) almost verbatim, yet with his typical minor rearrangements, probably in an attempt to obscure the theft (Simpson and Simpson 1977). The striking parallel constructions and wording of the two passages leave no doubt as to the origin of the text.



The NATURAL
HISTORY
OF
North-Carolina.
WITH AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
Trade, Manners, and Cuſtoms of the CHRISTIAN and INDIAN Inhabitants. Illuſtrated with *Copper-Plates*, whereon are curiouſly Engraved the *Map* of the Country, ſeveral ſtrange *Beaſts*, *Birds*, *Fiſhes*, *Snakes*, *Inſects*, *Trees*, and *Plants*, &c.
By JOHN BRICKELL, M. D.
Noſtra nos in urbe peregrinamur. CIC.
DUBLIN:
Printed by JAMES CARSON, in *Coghill's-Court*, *Dame-ſtreet*, oppoſite to the *Caſtle-Market*. For the AUTHOR, 1737.

Figure 1. Brickell's *Natural History of North-Carolina* (1737)

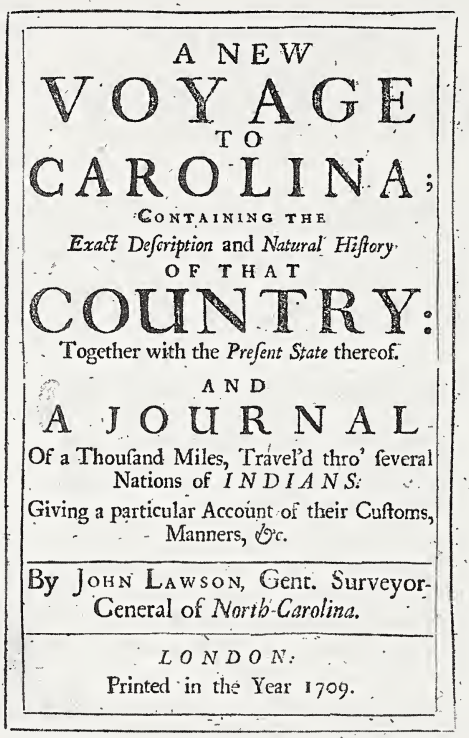
Clayton (1693) observed that:

"the white Owl is a very delicate feather'd bird, all the Feathers upon her Breast and Back being snow-white, and tipped with a Punctal of Jet-black."

Brickell incorporated the Clayton text into his *Natural History* (1737):

"It is a delicate Feathered Bird, all the Feathers upon the Back and Breast being Snow-white, and tiped (*sic*) with a punctal of Jet-black."

In his review of Brickell's records, McAtee (1956) took note of the White Owl report and mentioned the debt to Lawson but without thoroughly accounting for the source of the additional material: "His white owl is a mixture of the Snowy Owl and of that described by Lawson, with the Great Horned Owl in mind, but not identifiable from his remarks." McAtee did not comment about the possible validity of this account, and Pearson et al. (1919), who devoted an entire page to Brickell, did not mention his Snowy report. McAtee attributed Brickell's blunder to merging two different species accounts from Lawson, but Brickell's use of Clayton had not been discovered at the time McAtee reviewed the Brickell-Lawson connection.



A NEW
VOYAGE
TO
CAROLINA;
CONTAINING THE
Exact Deſcription and *Natural Hiſtory*
OF THAT
COUNTRY:
Together with the *Preſent State* thereof.
AND
A JOURNAL
Of a Thouſand Miles, Travel'd thro' ſeveral
Nations of *INDIANS*.
Giving a particular Account of their Cuſtoms,
Manners, &c.
By JOHN LAWSON, Gent. Surveyor-
General of *North-Carolina*.
LONDON:
Printed in the Year 1709.

Figure 2. Lawson's *A New Voyage to Carolina* (1709)

Typical of most text in Brickell's *Natural History*, it is impossible to conclude whether a given passage was merely plagiarized from an undisclosed author or whether Brickell was reporting from direct experience but using another writer's text to describe his own observation. Clayton's description of the Snowy's plumage is both simple and eloquent, succinctly conveying the essential features of the owl's appearance. Brickell might have chosen this passage to describe a species that he had personally encountered, but more likely he assumed that an owl reported by Clayton from nearby tidewater Virginia could be expected in North Carolina. Given the circumstances, however, the account in the *Natural History of North Carolina* should not be considered as acceptable primary documentation of the species' occurrence in North Carolina.

William Bartram's inclusion of the Snowy Owl in his classic *Travels* (1791) is uncharacteristically terse, consisting only of a single line entry in a table that lists species, each indicated with one of four different symbols to designate the particular species' status. The Snowy is given as "Strix arcticus, capite levi, corpore toto niveo; the great white owl", which is tagged as one of a number of species that "arrive in Pennsylvania in the autumn, from the

North, where they continue during the winter, and return again the spring following, I suppose to breed and rear their young; and these kinds continue their journies (*sic*) as far as South Carolina and Florida"

Subsequent authors repeated Bartram's status description and account nearly verbatim, as with John Latham in his *General History of Birds* (1795) and *Supplement II of the General Synopsis of Birds*, (1801), or only in passing, as by Baird et al. in *History of North American Birds* (1874). Twentieth century works refer to Bartram but without including his Snowy Owl information. Wayne (1910) cited Bartram's *Travels* but did not mention the Snowy Owl entry. Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949, 1970) noted Bartram as having done "considerable work in Carolina" but ignored his data on the Snowy Owl in their discussion of the species. Pearson et al. (1919) briefly discussed Bartram in their introductory material but omitted any records from the *Travels*, taking note that he did not provide specific information on the "animal life" of North Carolina from his brief transit through the state.

No conclusive evidence has been traced to reveal the extent to which Bartram's report was based on his own observations or on information provided to him by colleagues. If the latter situation explains why Bartram included the Snowy Owl in his *Travels* for South Carolina, then his possible source may have been Dr. Alexander Garden of Charleston. (Denny 1948; Berkeley and Berkeley 1965; Simpson 1999, 2004a, 2004b; Withers 2004; Finger 2010). Bartram and his father John Bartram were friends of Garden and visited him during sojourns in Charleston. One circumstantial thread possibly linking the Bartram report to Garden begins with the latter's material on the Snowy Owl as noted by Thomas Nuttall in his *Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and of Canada. The Land Birds* (1832, 1844). Nuttall cited Alexander Garden as reporting the species from South Carolina:

"In South Carolina, Dr. Garden saw them occasionally, and they were, in this mild region, observed to hide themselves during the day in the Palmetto groves of the sea-coast, and only sallied out towards night in quest of their prey".

Evidently Nuttall had discovered and was paraphrasing information that Garden had provided to Thomas Pennant, who included the comments in both the 1785 and 1792 editions of his *Arctic Zoology*. Pennant initially reported this information in 1785 merely as a terse footnote on p. 580, almost the end of volume II, more than 300 pages after his text account of the Snowy Owl. This suggests that Pennant had obtained Garden's information sometime after type had been set for the full species accounts and that he was thus compelled to insert the note as an unplanned addendum where sufficient space remained at the bottom of a page. Pennant (1785) commented only that Dr. Garden of Charles-town had "informed me, that the Snowy Owl ...is frequent near the shores of South Carolina, among the Palmetto trees."

Pennant subsequently expanded the details of Garden's report in the

new edition of the *Arctic Zoology* (1792). The "Palmetto trees" mentioned by Pennant are almost certainly cabbage palmettos (*Sabal palmetto*) (John B. Nelson and Herrick Brown, pers. comm.).

"It is rare in the temperate parts of America, and seldom strays as low as Pensylvania (*sic*) or Louisiana, yet has been frequently seen by Doctor Garden, in the sultry climate of South Carolina, among the groves of Palmetto trees, or the *Chamerops humilis**, which line the shores from the Cape of Florida quite to Charlestown. There they lurk during day, and sally out in quest of prey during night."

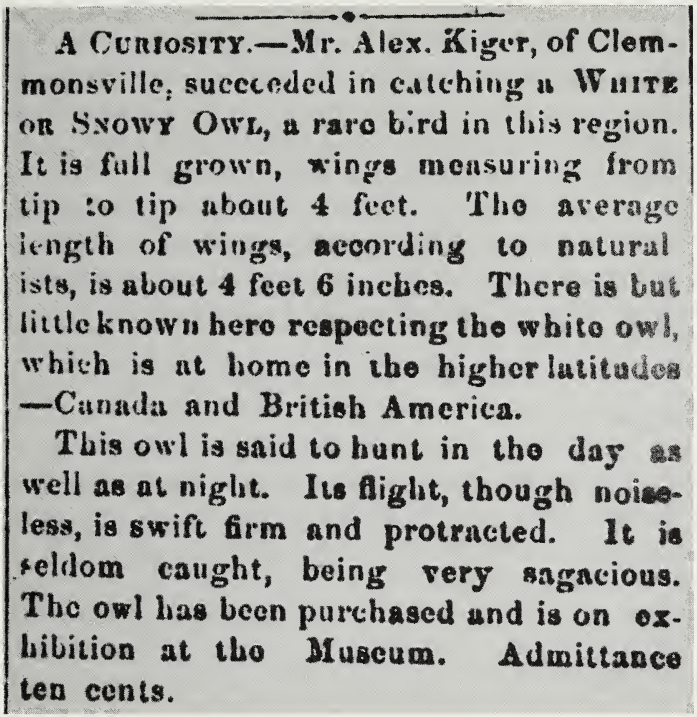
Regardless of the circumstances, Pennant's account of Snowy Owls in South Carolina is so inconsistent for what is known about the species that the report should probably be discounted. Garden may have been confused or Pennant may have misinterpreted what he had been told, perhaps mixing the account with that for another bird. The commentary may represent a mistake by Garden or Pennant for Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), which was also sometimes known as the Great White Owl at the time of these publications.

The fourth report is found in an unfinished manuscript by Moses Ashley Curtis, who gave a single line entry for the species in his "Birds of N. Carolina", which was probably intended as the outline for a more detailed ornithology of the state. Curtis apparently completed descriptive accounts for only a few of the more than 260 species in his manuscript, and the Snowy Owl text has not been found among those drafts. Curtis intended to have the book published by the North Carolina Geological Survey, which had printed his renowned *Botany* of North Carolina (Curtis 1867). In the economic retrenchment following the Civil War, the Survey declined to publish the ornithology. Curtis apparently ceased work on the project, and the surviving manuscript fragments do not contain information on the Snowy Owl or on the criteria used by Curtis to select species for inclusion on the list (Simpson and Simpson 1983).

The last of the five reports was announced, not in the scientific literature, but in the *People's Press*, Salem, NC, on Jan 18, 1872:

"Mr. Alex. Kiger, of Clemmonsville, succeeded in catching a WHITE OR SNOWY OWL, a rare bird in this region. It is full grown, wings measuring from tip to tip about 4 feet. The average length of wings, according to naturalists, is about 4 feet 6 inches. There is but little known here respecting the white owl, which is at home in the higher latitudes – Canada and British America. This owl is said to hunt in the day as well as at night. In flight, though noiseless, is swift firm and protracted. It is seldom caught, being very sagacious. The owl has been purchased and is on exhibition at the Museum. Admittance ten cents" (Fig. 3).

The commentary that the wingspread of this species was "according to naturalists ... about 4 feet 6 inches" and that the owl was "said to hunt in the day as well as at night" indicates that the writer of the *People's Press* report had access to one of the available contemporary reference books on birds.



A CURIOSITY.—Mr. Alex. Kiger, of Clemmonsville, succeeded in catching a WHITE OR SNOWY OWL, a rare bird in this region. It is full grown, wings measuring from tip to tip about 4 feet. The average length of wings, according to naturalists, is about 4 feet 6 inches. There is but little known here respecting the white owl, which is at home in the higher latitudes —Canada and British America.

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Figure 3. People's Press, Salem, NC January 18, 1872.

Reasonable candidates would be Nuttall's *Manual* (1832, 1840) and Brewer's (1840) edition of *Wilson's American Ornithology*.

Further information was provided on Saturday January 20 indicating that the owl was still alive and had indeed been acquired for the Museum, the Young Men's Missionary Society Museum, additionally taking note of a particularly cold winter (Crews and Bailey 2006):

"A large white owl has been purchased by the Society for the Museum, and is on exhibition there, still living. It is a very rare bird in these parts. Its being so far south may perhaps be recorded as one sign of the unusually severe winter. The past week has been a cold one again. On Friday ice was hauled again, about 2 in. thick."

Continued evidence of the cold weather was noted for nearly two weeks after the owl was first reported, as transcribed from Moravian records by Crews and Bailey (2006): Wednesday Jan 31: "Still cold (about 16° above zero at 7 or 8 A.M.) There has not been such thick ice for years. It is reported from 3 to 6 inches." Friday Feb 2: "It began to snow, and continued during the rest of the day and through the night, with high winds, sleet … This is the deepest snow of the winter with us." Saturday Feb 3: "This morning it was still snowing until about 10 A.M."

The eventual fate of the owl has not been determined, but the most likely outcome would be death while in captivity. Whether the bird was preserved as a mounted display, collection specimen, or donation elsewhere has not been traced, although a thorough review of the reports and manuscript documents in the Salem Archives might reveal such information (Rauschenberg 1995).

The report of Kiger's owl is more detailed than the entries by Bartram or Curtis, more convincing than the Garden-Pennant account, and certainly more credible than Brickell's multi-source plagiarism. As such the Kiger report should be considered a valid record of the species for North Carolina. The other accounts should not be regarded as acceptable documentation for the species in the Carolinas.

Acknowledgments

Robert J Cain and Robert M. Tompkins brought the Kiger report to my attention; Richard W. Starbuck and Johanna Brown assisted with information on the Kiger report; John B. Nelson and Herrick Brown provided identification of Garden's Palmetto.

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Josh Southern
203 Hyannis Drive
Holly Springs, NC 27540
joshsouthern79@gmail.com

(All dates Fall 2014, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	*December 1 - February 28*	*due March 20*
Spring	*March 1 - May 31*	*due June 20*
Summer	*June 1 - July 31*	*due August 20*
Fall	*August 1 - November 30*	*due December 20*

Reports may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location), and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

Reports published herein may include sightings that require review by the state bird record's committee. Such reports are not considered accepted records until, and unless, they are so ruled by the committee.

Abbreviations used: **BRP** – Blue Ridge Parkway, **Co** – County, **Dr** – Drive, **et al.** – (*et alia*) and others, **Ft** – Fort, **Ln** – Lane, **m. obs.** – multiple observers, **Mt** – Mount, **NC** – North Carolina, **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge, **Rd** – Road, **SC** – South Carolina, **SP** – State Park, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WTP** – Water Treatment Plant

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: 65 around the Intercoastal Waterway at Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Oct (Carl Miller) was an impressive count.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Sightings, all in NC, included one at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, 9 Nov (Audrey Whitlock); four near Maggie Valley, Haywood Co, 22-23 Nov (Keith Miller, Bob Olthoff, Connie Wulkowicz, et al.); and one photographed in flight with Tundra Swans in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, border of Hyde Co and Washington Co, 30 Nov (Dave Ross).

Snow Goose: Sightings outside of the coastal plain included two in flight over Spartanburg Co, SC, 22 Nov (Irvin Pitts); one blue-phase bird near Maggie Valley, Haywood Co, NC, 22-23 Nov (Keith Miller, Bob Olthoff, Connie Wulkowicz, et al.); three, two adults and one immature bird, in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 25 Nov (Wayne Forsythe); and two, one blue-phase adult and one white-phase adult, at the NC State University Research Farm off Lake Wheeler Rd, Wake Co, NC, 27 Nov (Thierry Besançon).

Ross's Goose: Sightings, increasing in recent years, included one in the Lake Landing area (limited access) of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 3 Nov (Scott Winton); one on the lawn of Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Dare Co, NC, 16 Nov (Chandra Biggerstaff, Sherry Lane, Jeff Lewis, et al.); one along the French Broad River in Buncombe Co, NC, 22 Nov (Steve Ritt); a juvenile bird, possibly a Ross's / Snow Goose hybrid, and a moribund adult at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 22 Nov (James Fleullan); one in Lenoir, Caldwell Co, NC, 29 Nov (Barbara Miller); one at Deer Lake in Brevard, Transylvania Co, NC, 30 Nov (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey); and two photographed on the small pond alongside Beasley Rd in Washington Co, NC, 30 Nov (Ryan Justice).

Brant: One was seen on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 22-23 Oct (Ricky Davis). Interestingly, one was seen at that same site last year in late October. Two were also seen in flight, heading south, off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 25 Oct (Davis, Jeff Pippen).

Tundra Swan: Two seen along Laurel Hill Wildlife Dr at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 15 Nov (David McLean) were good finds for the southern part of our region.

Eurasian Wigeon: Sightings, all of drakes, included one on the pond at New Field, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 12 Oct (Ryan Justice, Jeff Lemons, Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock); one on South Pond at Pea Island NWR, 23

Oct (Ricky Davis, David Williams); one near the south end of the causeway at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 29 Oct (Steve Ritt); one in the Lake Landing area (limited access) of Mattamuskeet NWR, 3 Nov (Scott Winton); and two on South Pond at Pea Island NWR, 4 Nov (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock).

Mottled Duck: Two on Eagle Island, Brunswick Co, NC, 17 Aug (Greg Massey) were good finds for NC.

Green-winged Teal: A hen on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, NC, 14 Aug (David McLean, et al.) was a little early.

Redhead: A pair, one drake and one hen, on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 28 Sep (Ricky Davis) was quite early. 100+ on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 22 Nov (Henry Link) was a good count for a site in the Piedmont. By the end of the period, thousands of Redheads made up a large raft on South Pond, Pea Island NWR, with 8000 estimated there 29 Nov (Jeff Lewis).

Common Eider: Sightings included one at New River Inlet, Horry Co, SC, 24 Aug (Stefanie Paventy); a hen off Jennette's Pier in Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, during the Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival, 23 Oct (Audrey Whitlock, et al.); a first-winter drake at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 12 Nov (Diana Doyle); a first-winter drake on Silver Lake in Ocracoke, Hyde Co, NC, 28 Nov (Gilbert Grant, Nikki Reiber); and a first-winter drake in flight off the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 30 Nov (Grant, Reiber).

Surf Scoter: Inland sightings included an immature bird on Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 26 Oct (Henry Link); either a hen or an immature bird at the WTP in Goldsboro, Wayne Co, NC, 1 Nov (Eric Dean, Gene Howe); a first-winter bird photographed in Meggett, Charleston Co, SC, 6 Nov (Ken Carman); and eight, mostly adult males, on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 16 Nov (Link).

Black Scoter: A pair off Jennette's Pier in Nags Head, Dare Co, NC, 30 Aug (Audrey Whitlock) may have summered in our region. A hen photographed on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 20 Nov (John Haire, m. obs.) was a first for that county.

Long-tailed Duck: A hen photographed at the WTP in Goldsboro, Wayne Co, NC, 15 Nov (Sam Cooper) was a good find for that inland site.

Common Merganser: A hen on Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 22 Nov (Sam

Jolly, m. obs.) through 7 Dec (Ed Corey) was locally unusual.

Red-breasted Merganser: 45 on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 22 Nov (Bob Rybczynski, et al.); 36 on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 22 Nov (Steve Ritt); and 25 on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 22 Nov (Henry Link) were good counts for those inland lakes.

Pacific Loon: Two, one adult and one first-year bird, were found amongst a large flock of Common Loons off Crystal Pier at Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Nov (Sam Cooper).

Red-necked Grebe: Individuals were found near the boardwalk in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 25 Oct (Kent Fiala); on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 26 Oct (Elizabeth & Henry Link); on Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 6 Nov (Andrew Thornton); on Lake Hickory in Catawba Co, NC, 15 Nov (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby); and on Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 28 Nov (Ricky Davis).

Eared Grebe: One was seen at the WTP in Goldsboro, Wayne Co, NC, 1 Nov (Eric Dean, Gene Howe) and 30 Nov (Sam Cooper).

Bermuda Petrel: One was seen and photographed on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 30 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Fea's Petrel: Individuals were seen on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 8 Aug and 17 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.).

Audubon's Shearwater: One, possibly injured, was seen on the north end of Folly Beach, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Aug (Kevin Jensen).

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel: 25 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 8 Aug, and 26 the following day, 9 Aug (Brian Patteson, et al.) were good counts.

Wood Stork: Seven at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 4 Aug (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) were good finds for an inland site. 234 at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, SC, 22 Aug (Frank Lawkins) was an impressive count.

Great Cormorant: Sightings included one or more at New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, throughout the period (Gilbert Grant); one at the south end of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 3 Nov (Audrey Whitlock) and 29 Nov (Rich & Susan Boyd); and a high count of five at New River Inlet, 12 Nov (Grant).

Anhinga: Inland sightings included a female on Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 14 Aug (John Finnegan); one in flight over Lake Osceola, Henderson Co, NC, 18 Oct (Ron Selvey); and four photographed at Cane Creek Park, Union Co, NC, 20 Oct (George Andrews). Three in Kill Devil Hills, Dare Co, NC, 15 Aug (Elisa & Nick Flanders) were good finds for the northern part of our coast. An adult male at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 16 Nov (Jamie Adams, John Fussell, et al.) was a first for that site.

American White Pelican: Counts at traditional wintering sites included 50 at Donnelley WMA, Colleton Co, SC, 6 Aug (Ryan Justice); 200 on North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 16 Nov (Sherry Lane); 18 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 22 Nov (Ricky Davis, Bill Deans, Tom Stutz, David Williams); and 91 at Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 30 Nov (Pam Ford, et al.). Locally unusual were 13 near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 12 Sep (Rich & Susan Boyd); eight at Goose Creek SP, Beaufort Co, NC, 15 Oct (*fide* Ed Corey); 30 flying south over Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 19 Oct (Sam Cooper); 41 photographed on J. Strom Thurmond Lake, McCormick Co, SC, 6 Nov (Eric Haskell); and 19 near Pamlico Point, Pamlico Co, NC, 8 Nov (Nate Swick, et al.).

American Bittern: One at Prairie Ridge Ecostation, Wake Co, NC, 20 Oct (Mike Turner) into November (m. obs.) was probably the same bird seen there last winter. At another inland site, Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, one was seen 17 Oct (Paul Serridge) into November (m. obs.).

Snowy Egret: One at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 4 Oct (Steve Ritt) was very unusual for the mountain region.

Little Blue Heron: Six at a roadside pond in southeastern Guilford Co, NC, 6 Aug (Andrew Thornton) was a good count for a site so far from the coast.

Tricolored Heron: A juvenile bird on Andrew's Pond in Richmond Co, NC, 13 Aug (Mike McCloy) was a first for that county.

Reddish Egret: One or more immature birds were seen on the mudflats of North Topsail Beach near New River Inlet, Onslow Co, NC, 12 Aug through 29 Sep (Gilbert Grant), with a high count of four made there 16 Aug (Andrew Rapp). Three were seen on the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 23 Sep (Liz Lathrop, et al.) and 11 Oct (John Fussell, et al.). 14 in the Jack's Creek Impoundment on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 4 Oct (Kevin DeBoer) was an amazing count.

Cattle Egret: 650 along SC-32 in Jackson Co, SC, 16 Aug (Peter Stangel) was

a remarkable concentration. Somewhat late were two at Futch Game Land, Tyrrell Co, NC, 16 Nov (Ricky Davis) and one at the Holly Ridge WTP in southwest Onslow Co, NC, 22 Nov (Jim O'Donnell, Andy Webb).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Locally unusual was a first-summer bird at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 12 Aug (Steve Ritt); an adult along Wildlife Dr at Pee Dee NWR, Anson Co, NC, 13 Aug (Mike McCloy); and an immature bird at Eno River SP, Orange Co, NC, 17 Sep (Dan Kaplan).

White-faced Ibis: Two were found amongst Glossy Ibises in the Lake Landing section (limited access) of Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 3 Nov (Scott Winton).

Roseate Spoonbill: Some of the higher counts in South Carolina were 13 on Mullet Pond at Huntington Beach SP, Georgetown Co, 22 Aug (Bob & Judy Maxwell); 65 at Bear Island WMA, Colleton Co, 24 Aug (Aija Konrad); 15 on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charelston Co, 29 Aug (David McLean); and 26 on two ponds on Ladys Island, Beaufort Co, 3 Oct (Buddy Campbell). Interestingly, none were reported in NC during the period.

Swallow-tailed Kite: 50 were counted at the traditional post-breeding congregation site in Allendale, Allendale Co, SC, 2 Aug (Jill Midgett, et al.). One was seen with Mississippi Kites over the tomato fields along Parker Padgett Rd, near exit 75 on I-40, just east of Old Fort, McDowell Co, NC, 30 Aug (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal) and 8 Sep (James Polling).

Mississippi Kite: Sightings of post-breeding wanderers in the NC mountains included one over Lake James in Burke Co, 17 Aug (Jamie Cameron); 12 over a tomato field along Howard Gap Rd in Tryon, Polk Co, 17 Aug (Simon Harvey); up to 15 over the tomato fields along Parker Padgett Rd, near exit 75 on I-40, just east of Old Fort, McDowell Co, 19 Aug (Dwayne Martin) through 30 Aug (Cameron); one at Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, 20-24 Aug (Simon Thompson); one in the Cedar Hill Game Land, Buncombe Co, 21 Aug (Thompson); and four along Jeffress Rd in Henderson Co, 22-23 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

Northern Harrier: Individuals at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 27 Aug (Linda Ward); at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 30 Aug (Jeff Click); and in the fields adjacent to Schenck Forest, Wake Co, NC, 31 Aug (John Finnegan) were somewhat early.

Broad-winged Hawk: Counts of migrants included 2279 over Linville Peak, Avery Co, NC, 20 Sep (Jesse Pope); 594 over Riverbend Park, Catawba Co,

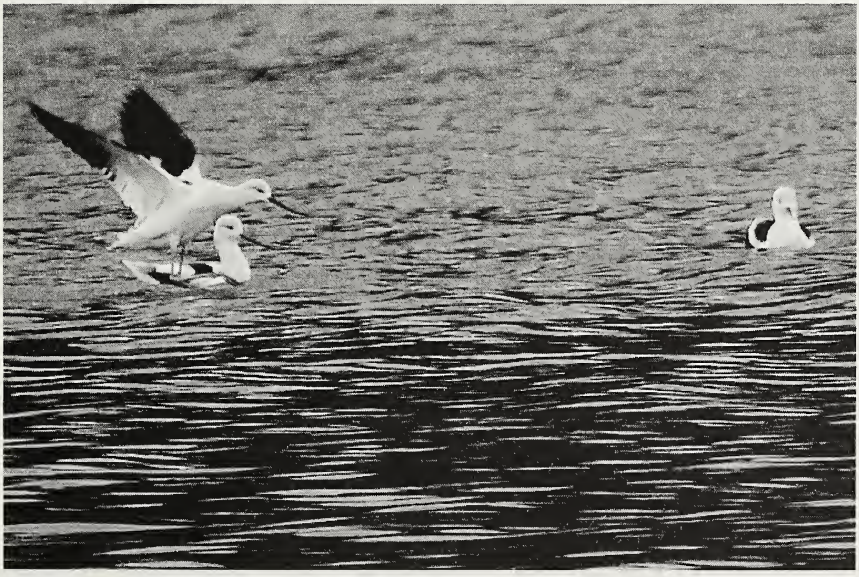
NC, 22 Sep (Dwayne Martin); 1323 over Pilot Mountain, Surry Co, NC, 22 Sep (Phil Dickinson, et al.); 2392 over Pilot Mountain, 27 Sep (Dickinson, et al.); and 1200 over Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 28 Sep (Ron Clark, et al.).

Golden Eagle: An adult was seen soaring over a field on the west side of Lake Phelps, Washington Co, NC, 28 Nov (Rich & Susan Boyd).

Virginia Rail: One photographed at Brookshire Park, 3000 feet above sea level, in Watauga Co, NC, 29 Oct (Guy McGrane) through 3 Nov (Issac Kerns) was unusual for the high mountains. Two in a marsh adjacent to Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 30 Nov (Nathan Gatto) were good finds for a site in the Piedmont.

Purple Gallinule: Two, an adult and an immature bird, seen together in the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR, Clarendon Co, SC, 11 Sep (Irvin Pitts) were locally unusual. 20 along Laurel Hill Wildlife Dr, Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 6 Oct (Timothy White) was a good count.

Sandhill Crane: Sightings included a juvenile crane at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 7 Sep (Helmut & Nancy Mueller); two juveniles cranes at the American Sod farm in Washington Co, NC, 7 Sep (Mueller); one near



American Avocet, 23 Nov 2014, Haywood Co, NC.
Photo by Stan Wulkowicz.

Willis Landing, Onslow Co, NC, for several weeks in late September and early October (*fide* John Fussell); one in flight over Roan Mountain, Mitchell Co, NC, 15 Nov (Rick Knight); one (same individual?) in flight over Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 15 Nov (Steve Ritt); and two returning to Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 26 Nov (Stan Rule) for another winter.

Black-necked Stilt: Somewhat late were three at Pea Island NWR until 10 Sep (Audrey Whitlock) and three at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co, SC, 2 Oct (Steve Calver)

American Avocet: High counts at traditional wintering sites were 300 at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 17 Nov (Peggy Eubank) and 400 at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 28 Nov (Steve Calver). Rare inland sightings included one at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 9 Sep (Phil Dickinson); one at the WTP in Hemmingway, Williamsburg Co, SC, 11 Nov (Jay Chandler) through 13 Nov (Lex Glover); and three at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 23 Nov (Bob Olthoff, Connie & Stan Wulkowicz). Of local interest were seven flying south past Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 6 Sep (Sam Cooper); ten flying southwest over Beaufort Inlet, Carteret Co, NC, 15 Sep (Chelsea McDougall); and 18 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 22 Nov (Ricky Davis, Bill Deans, Tom Stutz, David Williams).

Black-bellied Plover: Inland sightings included one at Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Aug (Steve Ritt); two along Hooper Ln, 8 Sep (Simon Thompson); a high count of 30 at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 7 Sep (Ricky Davis) where the species was present 9 Aug (Thierry Besançon) through 9 Sep (Skip Hancock, Linda Ward); and a juvenile bird photographed at Cane Creek Reservoir, Orange Co, NC, 11 Oct (Margaretta Yarborough).

American Golden-Plover: Sightings made at sod farms included one at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 1 Aug (Craig Watson) through 5 Aug (Caroline Eastman); one at American Turf in Washington Co, NC, 26 Aug (Ed Dombrofski); three at American Turf, 31 Aug (Harry LeGrand, et al.) and 1 Sep (Ricky Davis, Ryan Justice); one at Super Sod along Hooper Ln in Henderson Co, NC, 6 Sep (Kelly Hughes) and 8 Sep (Simon Thompson); and three at Super Sod along Hooper Ln, 3 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Steve Ritt, Thompson). Elsewhere, individuals were found at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Carteret Co, NC, 28 Aug (John Fussell) and near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Sep (Clyde Atkins). 14 amongst Black-bellied Plovers in a recently-harvested soybean field at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 7 Sep (Jamie Adams, Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, Fussell) was our region's high count.

Wilson's Plover: 96 at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Carteret Co, NC, 12 Aug (John Fussell) was a good-sized post-breeding aggregation. One on the west end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 28 Nov (Fussell) was "certainly an over-wintering bird."

Semipalmated Plover: A few of the better counts at inland sites were six at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 1 Aug (Phil Dickinson); 67 at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 9 Aug (Thierry Besançon); five at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 10 Aug (Wayne Forsythe); and four at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 12 Sep (Pam Ford).

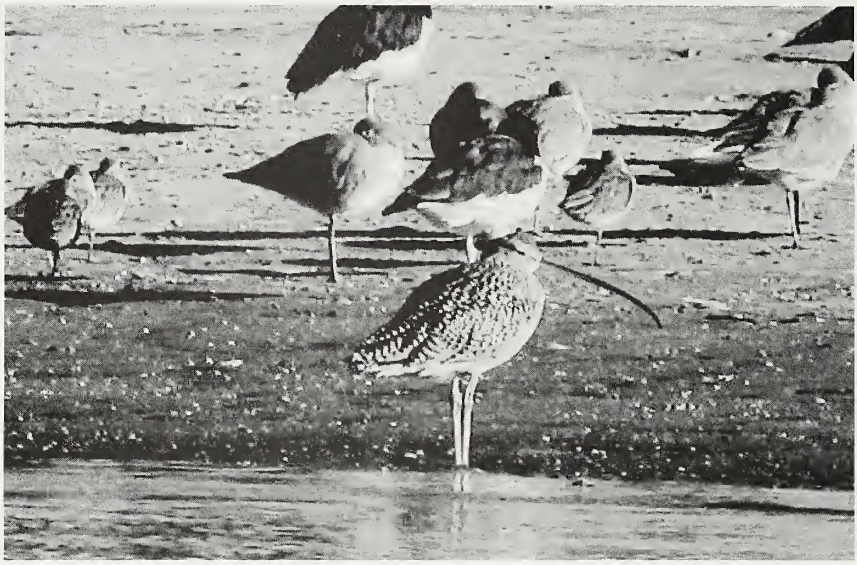
Piping Plover: A few of the better counts were 34 around Rich Inlet, border of New Hanover Co and Pender Co, NC, 5 Sep (Tara McIver); 19 at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Carteret Co, NC, 27 Sep (John Fussell); and 11 on mudflats on the north end of Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, 24 Oct (Kent Fiala, Fussell, et al.).

Spotted Sandpiper: Individuals at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 29 Nov (Edward Landi) and in Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 29 Nov (Jeff Lemons) were late.

Willet: Rare inland sightings were made of individuals at Champion Park in Rosman, Transylvania Co, NC, a juvenile bird of the western race, 8 Aug (Steve Ritt); on the mudflats where Horsepen Creek empties into Lake Brandt, Guilford Co, NC, 11 Aug (Henry Link); and at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 3 Sep (Guy McGrane).

Upland Sandpiper: Peak counts at sod farms were 27 at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 28 Aug (Jamie Adams), with one remaining until 9 Sep (Skip Hancock, Linda Ward); eight at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 23 Aug (Sam Murray), with one remaining until 6 Sep (Christopher Davies); and three at Oakland Plantation Turf Farm, Bladen Co, NC, 24 Aug (John Ennis). Up to two were present in the grassy areas around Wilmington International Airport, New Hanover Co, NC, 11 Aug (Sam Cooper) through 25 Aug (Eamon Freiburger). Individuals were found at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 3 Aug (Jack Fennell, John Fussell, Elizabeth White) and at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Carteret Co, NC, 28 Aug (Fussell).

Long-billed Curlew: One photographed on the southeast end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret Co, NC, 11 Oct (Jamie Adams, John Fussell, et al.) was a great find. Two were seen and photographed at Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, on a trip led by Coastal Expeditions, 30 Nov (Pam Ford, et al.).



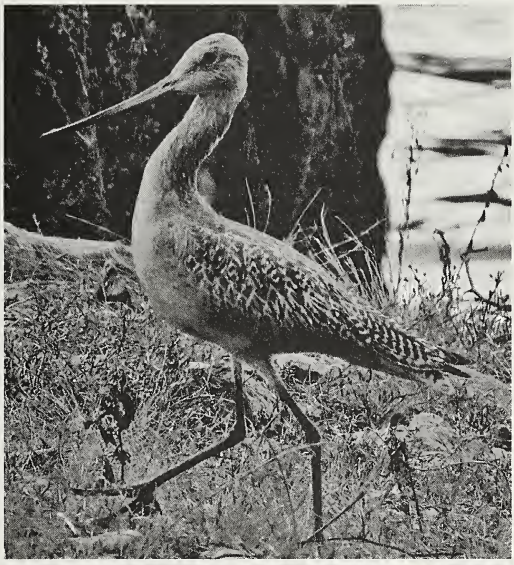
Long-billed Curlew, 30 Nov 2014, Charleston Co, SC.
Photo by Pam Ford.

Hudsonian Godwit: Two were found at Mackay Island NWR, Currituck Co, NC, 1 Sep (Ryan Justice). One was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 12 Sep (Steve Calver).

Marbled Godwit: Rare inland sightings were made of individuals at the Modern Turf farm along SC-441, just north of Dalzell, Sumter Co, SC, 9 Aug (Steve Patterson) and at the dam on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes Co, NC, 1 Sep (Issac Kerns) and 2 Sep (Dwayne Martin). Some of the higher coastal counts were 268 on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 12 Sep (David McLean, Eliese Ronke); 140 at the Rachel Carson Reserve on 17 Sep (John Fussell, Paula Gillikin); 233 at the Rachel Carson Reserve, 27 Sep (Fussell); and 160 at Fish Haul Creek Park, Beaufort Co, SC, 27 Nov (Frank Fogarty).

Ruddy Turnstone: Rare at inland sites, a Ruddy Turnstone was seen at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 7 Aug (Ron Morris) through 6 Sep (Alise Baer), and two turnstones were seen there 16 Aug (Skip Hancock, Linda Ward).

Stilt Sandpiper: 50 in the campground at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 4 Aug (Michael Kerwin) was a good count. One in the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 8 Nov (Jeff Pippen, Paul Taillie, et al.) was somewhat late.



Marbled Godwit, 02 Sep 2014, Wilkes Co, NC.
Photo by Wayne Martin.

Dunlin: Sightings at inland sites included two at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 24 Aug (Judy Walker, et al.); one at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 15 Oct (Steve Ritt); and two at Jordan Lake, Chatham Co, NC, 3 Nov (Jeff Pippen).

Baird's Sandpiper: Individuals were found at the Oakland Sod farm in Bladen Co, NC, 7 Aug (Ron Clark); at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 24 Aug (Judy Walker, et al.) and 31 Aug (Caroline Eastman); and along Lee Bucks Rd in Brunswick Co, NC, 9 Sep (Greg Massey).

White-rumped Sandpiper: One photographed at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 21 Sep (Sam Cooper) was unusual for that saltwater habitat. Individuals at South Pond, Pea Island NWR, 22 Oct (Simon Thompson) and on Cat Island, Georgetown Co, SC, 8 Nov (Jamie Dozier) were late.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Peak counts at sod farms were four at Super Sod in Orangeburg Co, SC, 19 Aug (Elisa & Nick Flanders); three at Super Sod in Henderson Co, NC, 31 Aug (Simon Thompson); and nine at American Turf in Washington Co, NC, 7 Sep (Robin Myers). Elsewhere, individuals were seen at the pond next to the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 31 Aug through 7 Sep (John Fussell, et al.); at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 9 Sep (Phil Dickinson); in a field near the Charlotte Motor Speedway, Cabarrus Co, NC, 10 Sep (Michael Dorcas, Phil Fowler); and at Rich Inlet, border of

New Hanover Co and Pender Co, NC, 13 Sep (Derb Carter).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Our states' peak counts were 320 at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 1 Aug (Craig Watson) and 200 at the American Turf farm, Washington Co, NC, 3 Aug (Audrey Whitlock). Individuals at the Hemmingway WTP, Williamsburg Co, SC, 18 Nov (Jay Chandler) and at Harris Lake, Wake Co, NC, 29 Nov (Mike Turner) were late.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Two or three at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 4 Nov (Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock) were late.

Western Sandpiper: Individuals at the Super Sod farm along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 8 Aug (Steve Ritt) and 2-4 Sep (Simon Thompson) were good finds for the mountain region. 8000 on the rocks at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 8 Aug (Greg Massey) was a fantastic count.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Inland sightings included one at Archie Elledge WTP, Forsyth Co, NC, 1 Aug and 12 Aug (Phil Dickinson, m. obs.); two along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Aug (Kelly Hughes); and five at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 5 Sep (Pam Ford). 4500 on the rocks at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 2 Sep (Greg Massey) was an impressive concentration.

Wilson's Snipe: One at the Super Sod farm in Orangeburg Co, SC, 31 Aug (Elisa & Nick Flanders) was a little early. 11 at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 7 Sep (John Fussell, et al.) was a good count for early September.

American Woodcock: Three making courtship display flights at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 9 Nov (John Fussell, et al.) were interesting because those displays usually don't begin until winter.

Wilson's Phalarope: Sightings involved two at the American Turf farm in Washington Co, NC, 3 Aug (Steve Shultz, Peggy Eubank); one at American Turf, 17 Aug (Sam Jolly, Edward Landi); one at South Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 18 Aug (Matt O'Donnell); and one at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 9-12 Sep (Scott Davis, m. obs.).

Pomarine Jaeger: An immature bird was seen at Rich Inlet, border of New Hanover Co and Pender Co, NC, 13 Sep (Derb Carter).

Parasitic Jaeger: "From-shore" sightings included a rare juvenile dark-morph bird off Ocracoke Island, Hyde Co, NC, 7 Sep (Helmut Mueller, Peter

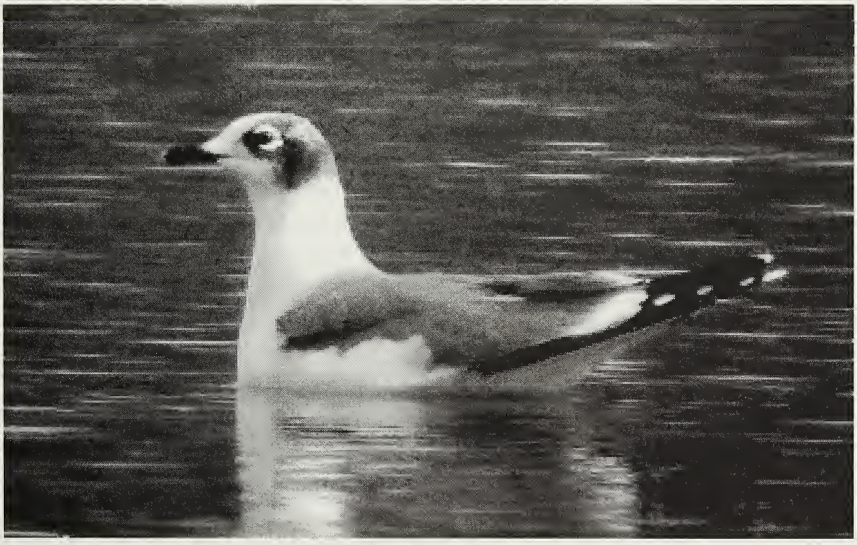
Vankevich); one off Coquina Beach, Dare Co, NC, 25 Oct (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen); one off the Oceanana Fishing Pier in Carteret Co, NC, 26 Nov (John Fussell); and two off Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 30 Nov (Ryan Justice).

Bonaparte's Gull: One at Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 29 Aug (David McLean, Bob Seigler) was somewhat early.

Laughing Gull: A total of 15 juvenile birds on Lake Hickory, eight in Caldwell Co and seven in Alexander Co, NC, 12 Aug (Dwayne Martin) was a good count for that region. Individuals on Lake Townsend, Guilford Co, NC, 22 Nov (Henry Link) and on Salem Lake, Forsyth Co, NC, 24 Nov (Phil Dickinson, Marbry Hopkins, et al.) were unusual for inland lakes during the late fall.

Franklin's Gull: An adult was photographed at the WTP along NC-191 in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 29 Oct (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Thompson, et al.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Up to 600 at Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 26 Oct (Ricky Davis, Jeff Pippen, m. obs.) was a large congregation. 33 on North Topsail Beach, Onslow Co, NC, 17 Nov (Gilbert Grant) was a good count for that area.



Franklin's Gull, 29 Oct 2014, Henderson Co, NC.
Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

Sooty Tern: 34 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 13 Sep (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a good count.

Caspian Tern: 105 at the east end of Sunset Beach, Brunswick Co, NC, 4 Oct (Sam Cooper) was a good count. One at Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 28 Nov (Cooper) was late.

Black Tern: High counts were 260 at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 7 Sep (Sam Cooper) and 300 on Bulls Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 12 Sep (Margaret Ronke). 96 on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare Co, NC, 13 Sep (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a fantastic offshore count. Individuals at the WTP in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 1 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) and at Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 5 Sep (Simon Thompson) were good finds for the mountain region. One seen from the Knotts Island Ferry, Currituck Co, NC, 19 Oct (Elisa & Nick Flanders, Mark Kosiewski, Natalia Ocampo-Penuela, Scott Winton) was quite late.

Common Tern: Three at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 15 Nov (Sam Cooper) were late.

Sandwich Tern: Seven at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, 22 Nov (Sam Cooper) and three off Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, 30 Nov (Ryan Justice) were somewhat late.

Black Skimmer: The 3000+, most of which were flying southwest down the coast, at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Carteret Co, NC, 27 Sep (John Fussell) probably contributed to the large number, 1800, at Mason Inlet, New Hanover Co, NC, the following day, 28 Sep (Sam Cooper).

Common Ground-Dove: One was seen and photographed on private land in Mills River, Henderson Co, NC, 17-19 Nov (Richard Brock, Wayne Forsythe). Interestingly, a Common Ground-Dove was found at this same location on June 25th, 2006.

White-winged Dove: Individuals were seen at a feeder in Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 14 Oct (Rich & Susan Boyd); at Botany Bay Plantation WMA, Charleston Co, SC, 19 Oct (Jeff Kline, et al.) and 7 Nov (Irvin Pitts); and near the Old Coast Guard station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 24 Oct (Steve Shultz) through 26 Oct (m. obs.).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 100 at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, after the passage of a cold front, 5 Oct (Jamie Adams, Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell) was an impressive concentration of migrants.

Common Ground-Dove, 18 Nov 2014, Henderson Co, NC.
Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

Snowy Owl: From the winter 2013/2014 period, during the Snowy Owl irruption, a moribund bird was found on the NC-94 bridge over the Albemarle Sound, border of Chowan Co and Washington Co, NC, 11 Jan (Doug LeQuire).

Chuck-will's-widow: An emaciated female found on Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, 29 Oct (David Gardner), later taken to a wildlife rehabilitator, was late.

Chimney Swift: An estimated 17,000 at a roost in downtown Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co, NC, 7 Sep (Nathan Gatto) was a remarkable concentration.

Rufous Hummingbird: An adult male visiting a feeder in west Morehead City, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Nov into winter (Bill Hettler) was likely the same individual seen in that yard last winter. Two visited a yard in Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co, NC, mid-November into winter (Ann Williams). One of those two birds, a female, had been banded in the same yard two winters ago. A female captured in a yard in New Bern, Craven Co, NC, 22 Nov (Susan Campbell) was discovered to originally have been banded in Ft Atkinson, Wisconsin, 19 Oct. Considering this hummingbird left the yard in Wisconsin, 23 Oct, and arrived at the yard in New Bern, 15 Nov, this hummingbird must have covered over 800 miles in about three weeks!

Merlin: Sightings made in the western half of our region included one over Pilot Mountain, Surry Co, NC, 27 Sep (Phil Dickinson, et al.); one, possibly the same individual, over nearby Moore's Knob, Stokes Co, NC, later that same day (Brian Bockhahn, et al.); one photographed in a suburban area near Indian Trail, Union Co, NC, 15 Oct (Martina Nordstrand); and one at Mills River Park, Henderson Co, NC, 11 Nov (Wayne Forsythe).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Individuals were found at Bearwallow Gap, Henderson Co, NC, where photographed, 16 Aug (Kelly Hughes); at Fletcher Park, Henderson Co, NC, 16 Aug (Steve Ritt, Simon Thompson); along the Dan River in Eden, Rockingham Co, NC, where photographed, 29 Aug (Martin Wall); near the entrance gate to Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, where photographed, 4 Sep (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal); and at Cedarock Park, Alamance Co, NC, 5 Sep (Bill Oyler).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Individuals were found at Bethabara Park, Forsyth Co, NC, where photographed, 17 Sep (Phil Dickinson); at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 19-20 Sep (Ron Clark, et al.); at Santee-Delta East WMA, Georgetown Co, SC, 25 Sep (Pam Ford, Craig Watson); and at Ribbonwalk Nature Preserve, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 26 Sep (Clark).

Alder Flycatcher: Three different individuals were mist-netted, banded, and then released on Kiawah Island, Charleston Co, SC, 15-25 Sep (Aaron Given, et al.).

Eastern Phoebe: 175 at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, after the passage of a cold front, 5 Oct (Jamie Adams, Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell) was a remarkable concentration of migrants.

Say's Phoebe: One was seen at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 28 Sep (Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell). This sighting was interesting because most sightings in recent years have been made during the winter.

Western Kingbird: Individuals were found on Seabrook Island, Charleston Co, SC, a juvenile bird, 19 Aug (David Gardner, et al.); at Botany Bay WMA, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Sep (Craig Watson); near Oregon Inlet, Dare Co, NC, where photographed, 4 Sep (Greg Hudson); and near Ft Raleigh, Roanoke Island, Dare Co, NC, 27 Sep (Elizabeth & Henry Link).

Eastern Kingbird: 87 around the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 28 Aug (Audrey Whitlock) was a good concentration of migrants.

Gray Kingbird, 01 Sep 2014, Dare Co, NC.
Photo by Bobby Koch.

Gray Kingbird: One was photographed near the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 1 Sep (Bobby Koch).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Individuals were seen at Hoop Pole Creek Preserve in Atlantic Beach, Carteret Co, NC, 16 Oct (Ed Dombrofski); at Ft Moultrie National Monument, Charleston Co, SC, where photographed, 16 Oct (Pam Ford, Aija Konrad, Cherrie Sneed, Craig Watson, et al.); and on a power-line along US-264 in Hyde Co, NC, 19 Oct (Jamie Adams, Shun Endo).

White-eyed Vireo: One at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 24-29 Nov (Jane Kramer) was either quite late or attempting to over-winter in that area.

Bell's Vireo: Pending review by the NC Bird Records Committee was the report of one heard singing, though never seen, near the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 25 Oct (Jeff Lemons, Jeff Lewis, Audrey Whitlock).

Warbling Vireo: Individual migrants at the South Carolina Botanical Gardens, Pickens Co, SC, 13 Sep (Kevin DeBoer) and in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 30 Sep and 23 Oct (Jeff Lewis) were good finds.

Philadelphia Vireo: Four at Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 1 Oct (Simon Thompson) was a good count. Individual migrants stuck around awhile at The Bog Garden, Guilford Co, NC, 1-3 Oct (Henry Link, m. obs.); along the Black

Walnut Bottom Trail in Bethania, Forsyth Co, NC, 1-4 Oct (David & Susan Disher, Marbry Hopkins, m. obs.); and in a yard in Lexington Co, SC, 8-11 Oct (Irvin Pitts). One in Buxton Woods, Dare Co, NC, 23 Oct (Thompson) was somewhat late.

Common Raven: Two photographed over the Neuse River Greenway, Wake Co, NC, 5 Oct (Russ & Tricia Tyndall) may have been the same pair seen at Anderson Point Park, ten miles south and also on the Neuse River, 27 Oct (Mike Turner).

Purple Martin: An estimated 40,000 migrants roosting at the Unifi Plant in Yadkinville, Yadkin Co, NC, 6 Aug (Dwayne Martin, et al.) was an impressive concentration.

Tree Swallow: Two at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co, NC, 16 Nov (Steve Ritt) and one at Lake Norman in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 24 Nov (Kevin Metcalf) were late for those sites in the western part of our region.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Two at McAlpine Creek Park, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 2 Nov (Ken Kneidel) were late.

Bank Swallow: 100 at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 28 Aug (Steve Calver) was our region's high count.

Barn Swallow: One at the Savannah Spoil Site (restricted access), Jasper Co, SC, 28 Nov (Steve Calver) was quite late.

Sedge Wren: Sightings made outside of the coastal plain included one at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 25-26 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey); one along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 5 Oct (Simon Thompson); and one at Sandy Creek Park, Durham Co, NC, 13 Oct (Peter Perlman).

Marsh Wren: Individuals at Beaver Lake, Buncombe Co, NC, 1 Oct (Simon Thompson) and at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 18 Oct (Steve Ritt), and two along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 5 Oct (Thompson), were good finds for the mountains.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One photographed along the Cape Fear River in Harnett Co, NC, 22 Nov (Paul Hubert) was either late or attempting to over-winter.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: One seen in a yard near Falls Lake in northern Wake Co, NC, 9 Sep (Brian Pendergraft) was quite early, while one seen at Pee Dee

NWR, Anson Co, NC, 12 Nov (Geoff White) was quite late.

Swainson's Thrush: One seen in a yard in Manteo, Dare Co, NC, 27 Aug (Jeff Lewis) was somewhat early. 75 in a yard in Asheville, Buncombe Co, NC, 30 Sep (Simon Thompson) was a remarkable concentration of migrants. Six around Ft Moultrie National Monument, Charleston Co, SC, 8 Nov (Craig Watson) was a great count for that late date.

Wood Thrush: Individuals at Congaree National Park, Richland Co, SC, where photographed, 24 Oct (Jack Rogers) and at Botany Bay WMA, Charleston Co, SC, 25 Oct (Pam Ford) were late.

Gray Catbird: 300 at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 27 Sep (Simon Harvey); 400 at Patriot's Point, 30 Sep (Christopher Davies); and 300 around Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Oct (Jamie Adams, Chandra Biggerstaff, Jack Fennell, John Fussell) were all impressive concentrations of migrants.

Lapland Longspur: One seen on Round Bald, 5800 feet above sea level, just east of Carvers Gap, border of Tennessee and Mitchell Co, NC, 10 Nov (Rick Knight) was unusual for that high elevation and a possible first for that area of the mountains.

Ovenbird: One in the woods adjacent to the University of NC at Wilmington, New Hanover Co, NC, 6 Nov (Sam Cooper) was somewhat late.

Blue-winged Warbler: Individuals at Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Oct (Jamie Adams, et al.) and in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 7 Oct (Jeff Lewis) were good finds for those sites along the coast.

Black-and-white Warbler: One at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 30 Nov (Jeff Lewis) was either a late migrant or attempting to over-winter there.

Prothonotary Warbler: One at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 17 Sep (Wayne Forsythe) was a good find for the mountain region.

Tennessee Warbler: 140 at the Mt Lyn Lowry Overlook, along the BRP in Jackson Co, NC, 5 Oct (Mike McCloy) was our region's high count. One, seen well enough to distinguish it from the similar Orange-crowned Warbler, at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 20 Nov (Paul Serridge) was quite late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Three migrants at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 11 Oct (Simon Thompson) was a good count for the

mountains. 16 at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 30 Nov (Jeff Lewis) was a good count of the wintering population.

Nashville Warbler: This species was well-reported this fall with dozens of sightings made from the mountains to the coast. One heard singing at the Ridge Junction Overlook, along the BRP in southern Yancey Co, NC, on the somewhat early date of 16 Aug (Marilyn Westphal) was interesting. Three at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 21 Sep (Dennis Kent, et al.) was a good count. Two along the Estuary Trail in Corolla, Currituck Co, NC, 22 Sep (Skip Hancock, Linda Ward) were good finds for a site along the coast. Individuals at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 30 Oct (Simon Thompson); at the stream crossing along Mid Pines Rd, Wake Co, NC, where photographed, 2 Nov (Brendan Klick); and at Folly Beach County Park, Charleston Co, SC, 7 Nov (Keith McCullough) were somewhat late.

Connecticut Warbler: One photographed as it flew by, a few miles southeast of Cape Point, Dare Co, NC, during a pelagic trip, 13 Sep (Brian Patteson, et al.) was a surprise. Individuals were also seen at Grandfather Mountain, Avery Co, NC, 14 Sep (Janet & Richard Paulette, Jesse Pope) and at Santee SP, Orangeburg Co, SC, 28 Sep (Caroline Eastman).

Mourning Warbler: Individuals were found at Leicester Patch, Buncombe Co, NC, 10 Sep (Doug Johnston) and at Patriot's Point, Charleston Co, SC, 1 Oct (Kevin DeBoer) and 2 Oct (John Cox).

American Redstart: One found along Wildlife Dr at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 3 Nov (Christine Stoughton-Root) was late.

Cape May Warbler: Several impressive counts of migrants were made around Ridge Junction, along the BRP in southern Yancey Co, NC—15 on 1 Sep (Simon Thompson); at least 32 on 6 Sep (Marilyn Westphal, et al.); and 31 on 17 Sep (Westphal, et al.). Westphal notes that the species was much more common than usual this year. Five around Bass Lake in Wake Co, NC, 16 Oct (Josh Southern) was a good count for a site outside of the mountains.

Magnolia Warbler: 25 at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 20 Sep (Greg Massey) was a good count. Individuals in a yard in northern Wake Co, NC, 23 Oct (Kyle Kittelberger) and at Saluda Shoals Park, Lexington Co, SC, 26 Oct (Irvin Pitts) were somewhat late.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 66 around Ridge Junction, along the BRP in southern Yancey Co, NC, 9 Oct (Bill Haddad, Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal) was a remarkable count.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 7 Oct (Jeff Lewis) was a good find for a site along the coast.

Blackpoll Warbler: Two along the causeway at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 8 Nov (Lucas Bobay, Sam Jolly, Nate Swick) were somewhat late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Two at Lake Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 19 Sep (Mike Turner) were somewhat early.

Yellow-throated Warbler: One at Airlie Gardens, New Hanover Co, NC, 19 Oct (Sam Cooper) was somewhat late. A banded individual returned to a yard in Meggett, Charleston Co, SC, for another winter, in mid-November (Cherrie Sneed).

Prairie Warbler: Late individuals were found in Beaufort, Carteret Co, NC, 27 Nov (John Fussell); at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 30 Nov (Jeff Lewis); and at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 30 Nov (John Voigt, et al.).

Townsend's Warbler: A first-year female was photographed along the BRP just south of the Richland Balsam Overlook, border of Haywood Co and Jackson Co, NC, 13 Sep (Todd Arcos). The sighting has already been reviewed and accepted by the NC Bird Record Committee, making it NC's third official record of this western species, and first record from our mountain region.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 34 at Ridge Junction, along the BRP in southern Yancey Co, NC, 3 Sep (Simon Thompson) was our region's high count.

Wilson's Warbler: Sightings included three around Ridge Junction, along the BRP in southern Yancey Co, NC, 30 Aug (Mark Simpson, Simon Thompson, Marilyn Westphal, et al.); one photographed at the Clemson Aquaculture Facility, Pickens Co, SC, 28 Sep through 2 Oct (Hunter Kome, Linda Montgomery); one along the boardwalk in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 28 Sep through 2 Oct (Jim Gould, Jeff Lewis, et al.); one at Ft Moultrie National Monument, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Oct (Pam Ford, Craig Watson); one at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 6 Oct (Steve Calver); two along the boardwalk in Duck, 6-7 Oct (Lewis); one at Price Park in Guilford Co, NC, 9 Oct (Henry Link, et al.); and one at Jackson Park, Henderson Co, NC, 16 Oct (Ron Selvey).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One seen feeding on Chinese Privet fruit at Mattamuskeet NWR, Hyde Co, NC, 30 Nov (Dick & Dorothy Rosche) was late.

American Tree Sparrow, 12 Nov 2014, Buncombe Co, NC.
Photo by Jay Wherley.

American Tree Sparrow: One was seen and photographed near Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 12 Nov (Jay Wherley) through 16 Nov (Jan Fowler). Sightings of this species in the Carolinas have been few and far between the past couple of decades.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Sightings included one at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 5 Oct (Ricky Davis, Audrey Whitlock, et al.); two near Cape Lookout, Carteret Co, NC, 5 Oct (John Fussell, et al.); one at Ft Moultrie National Monument, Charleston Co, SC, 5 Oct (Pam Ford, Craig Watson) through 13 Oct (Watson); one at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 6 Oct (Greg Massey) through 23 Oct (Bruce Smithson); and two at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 23 Nov (Fussell, et al.).

Vesper Sparrow: Eight at Mills River Park, Henderson Co, NC, 31 Oct (Wayne Forsythe) and six along the South Prong Rocky River Greenway, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 22 Nov (Taylor Piephoff) were good counts.

Lark Sparrow: Sightings included an immature bird at the south end of North Pond, Pea Island NWR, Dare Co, NC, 6 Aug (Audrey Whitlock, et al.); one immature bird near the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 20-21 Aug (Jeff Lewis); two immature birds near the Old Coast Guard Station, 22-29 Aug (James Gould, Lewis, m. obs.); two at Magnolia

Henslow's Sparrow, 4 Nov 2014, Buncombe Co, NC.
Photo by Kelly Hughes.

Gardens, Charleston Co, SC, 10 Sep (David Youngblood); an adult just south of Salvo, Dare Co, NC, 14 Oct (Steve Johnson); and one at Alligator River NWR, Dare Co, NC, 18 Oct (Lewis, Jay Ross).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Individuals at Mills River Park, Henderson Co, NC, 3 Oct (Steve Ritt) and at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 5 Oct and 18 Oct (Ritt) were probably migrating through, while individuals at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 2 Nov (Irvin Pitts) and at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 9 Nov and 30 Nov (John Fussell, et al.) were probably on their wintering grounds.

Henslow's Sparrow: One seen and photographed at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 4 Nov (Kelly Hughes) through 8 Nov (Jan Fowler, et al.) may have been the same bird seen at that site last fall and this past spring.

Le Conte's Sparrow: Counts of three were made at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 9 Nov, 16 Nov, and 23 Nov (John Fussell, et al.). Fussell thinks there were "probably five different Le Conte's Sparrows (there) in November, based on the distances between observation sites." One was seen at the PotashCorp Wetland Mitigation Site in southern Beaufort Co, NC, 9 Nov (Tony DeSantis, et al.).

Song Sparrow: A juvenile seen near the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, Carteret Co, NC, 10 Aug (John Fussell) was suggestive of breeding in that area.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Sightings included one along the Black Walnut Bottom Trail in Bethania, Forsyth Co, NC, 1-16 Oct (Phil Dickinson, David & Susan Disher, Marbry Hopkins, et al.); one at Mills River Park, Henderson Co, NC, 3 Oct (Steve Ritt); four around Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 5 Oct (Ritt); one along the Highwoods Trail in Guilford Co, NC, 13 Oct (Henry Link); 13 around Warren Wilson College, 16 Oct (Ritt); one photographed in Rockingham Co, NC, 24 Oct (Martin Wall); a moribund bird in downtown Raleigh, Wake Co, NC, 28 Oct (*fide* John Gerwin); one photographed along the Tupelo Trail at Savannah NWR, Jasper Co, SC, 2 Nov (Irvin Pitts); one along Mid Pines Rd, Wake Co, NC, 3 Nov (Mike Turner); and two at Dobbins Farm in Townville, Anderson Co, SC, 21 Nov (Todd Arcos).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Somewhat late was one in Asheville, Buncombe Co, NC, 29 Oct (Simon Thompson) and a female, possibly injured, visiting a feeder at Riverbend Park in northern Catawaba Co, NC, until 1 Nov (Dwayne Martin).

Lincoln's Sparrow, 16 Oct 2014, Forsyth Co, NC.
Photo by Phil Dickinson.

Painted Bunting: A banded male returned for a third winter to a feeder in Manteo, Dare Co, NC, 11 Oct (*fide* Audrey Whitlock). Interestingly, this bunting was originally banded in St Matthews, Calhoun Co, SC, in 2012 (*fide* John Gerwin), suggesting that it migrates north for the winter!

Dickcissel: Sightings included one in Duck, Dare Co, NC, 30 Sep (Jeff Lewis); one at North River Farms (limited access), Carteret Co, NC, 2 Oct and 5 Oct (Rich Boyd, John Fussell, et al.); one on the border of Rockingham Co and Stokes Co, NC, 5 Oct (Martin Wall); two at North River Farms, 12 Oct (Fussell, et al.); and one at Ft Fisher, New Hanover Co, NC, 18 Oct (Sam Cooper).

Bobolink: Somewhat late were two at ACE Basin NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 25 Oct (Andy Harrison) and three at Price Park in Guilford Co, NC, 28 Oct (Andrew Thornton).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: An immature male seen and photographed in a ditch along Hooper Ln, Henderson Co, NC, 1 Sep (Wayne Forsythe, Simon Harvey) was a one-day wonder and a great find for the mountain region.

Yellow-headed Blackbird, 01 Sep 2014, Henderson Co, NC.
Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

Rusty Blackbird: Two of the better counts were 450 at the Flat River Waterfowl Impoundment, Durham Co, NC, 2 Nov (Eddie Owens) and 162 at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, 29 Nov (Jane Kramer).

Brewer's Blackbird: After a male was photographed along the Little Tennessee River Greenway in Franklin, Macon Co, NC, 9 Nov (Barbara McRae), ten were reported along nearby Forest Hills Dr, 25 Nov (Paula Gorgoglione). Five, two females and three males, at a farm in northern Watauga Co, NC, 15 Nov, and nine there the following day, 16 Nov (Merrill Lynch) were a first for the northern NC mountains. A female that visited a feeder in Newland, Avery Co, NC, 23 Nov (Jesse Pope) was also very unusual for that area.

Orchard Oriole: One on Bull Island, Cape Romain NWR, Charleston Co, SC, 27 Sep (David McLean) was somewhat late.

Baltimore Oriole: 100 around the Old Coast Guard Station at the north end of Pea Island, Dare Co, NC, 28 Aug (Audrey Whitlock) was an impressive concentration of migrants.

Purple Finch: 53 visiting feeders at Riverbend Park in northern Catawba Co, NC, 1 Nov (Dwayne Martin) provided a great count.

Red Crossbill: Several were seen around Bald Knob Ridge and Ridge Junction in southern Yancey Co, NC, from summer through at least 9 Oct (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal, m. obs.). In SC, four were seen at the Walhalla State Fish Hatchery, Oconee Co, 21 Sep (Keith McCullough).

Flock of Purple Finches at Riverbend Park, 1 Nov 2014, Catawba Co, NC. Photo by Dwayne Martin.

Pine Siskin: "Several" juvenile birds in the company of adult birds at the Cataloochie Ski Area in Haywood Co, NC, 23 Aug (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) was suggestive of breeding in that area. Irruptive wintering siskins began arriving in lower elevation areas in late October. A few of the higher counts were 25+ in Asheville, Buncombe Co, NC, 28 Oct (Simon Thompson); 25 at Warren Wilson College, Buncombe Co, NC, 7 Nov (Simon Harvey); 70 at Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge, Mecklenburg Co, NC, 23 Nov (Kevin Metcalf); and 40 at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville Co, SC, in late November (Anthony Martin).

Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—March 1965

Dr. James F. Parnell provided an in-depth account of the Swainson's Warbler in the Carolinas. He noted that since its original discovery by Dr. John Bachman in the lowcountry of South Carolina in 1883, the Swainson's Warbler remained "one of the least known of the warblers inhabiting the southeast". In his article, Parnell provides the details of the first confirmed account of Swainson's Warbler nesting in the North Carolina mountains. He found an adult feeding two young in the Toxaway River Gorge area in June 1961. "The young birds were capable of only short flights and appeared to have been out of the nest for only one or two days." The sighting was made at an elevation of 1,400 feet.

Later in his survey, Parnell noted multiple Swainson's Warblers along the length of the gorge in elevations ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 ft. He found singing males daily into August and collected two as specimens. Both the birds had enlarged testes indicating their breeding condition. The warblers seemed to be found primarily in areas with thickets of rhododendron, mountain laurel, and dog hobble and observations were made near streams and "some distance from water" as well. Parnell concluded that the Swainson's Warbler was a "fairly common summer resident" along river gorges draining the Blue Ridge Plateau. He also surmised that two factors had resulted in the general lack of historic records of Swainson's Warbler from the mountains. First, the rugged nature of the terrain and second, the density of the vegetation making the area difficult to study.

Dr. Parnell also submitted a significant note published in the General Field Notes section. He provided a detailed account of the third record of Harlequin Duck for the state of North Carolina. It was found in almost the exact same location as the first Harlequin Duck record in the state in 1962, the north end of Carolina Beach. E. Burnham Chamberlain provided a General Field Note on the confirmation of six pairs of Blue-winged Teal nesting on Bulls Island, the first confirmed account from the state. The birds raised 26 young. Several

observers submitted notes of Common Eiders showing up at both Morehead City and Nags Head, North Carolina. These reports provided details for a species that, at the time, had been recorded only a few times in the state.

Olin S. Pettingill, Director of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, announced the start of a continent-wide nest-record card program and encouraged birders from both Carolinas to participate. Details of all nests of any species discovered were to be recorded on the card and mailed to the Lab so that a comprehensive national database of nest details could be created. This nest card program was the first of its kind on a continent-wide basis. Several state or regional nest card projects had been organized including one sponsored by the North Carolina Bird Club in 1940.

Original cover of *The Chat* in March 1965.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization which represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its official website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.
- To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.
- To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.
- To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.
- To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.
- To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.

Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes. Make checks payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Send checks or correspondence regarding membership or change of address to Headquarters Secretary, or visit : http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/about.html. Dues include $6 for subscription to the *CBC Newsletter* and $7 for subscription to *The Chat*.

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NC Vice-Presidents	Ron Clark, Kings Mountain, NC	waxwing@bellsouth.net
	Scott Winton, Durham, NC	scott.winton@gmail.com
SC Vice-President	Jeff Click, Easley, SC	jeffreyclick@yahoo.com
Secretary	Doris Ratchford, Todd, NC	dpratchford@me.com
Treasurer	Samir Gabriel, Huntersville, NC	Samir.Gabirel@itg-global.com
NC Members-at-Large	Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC	cssjar@aol.com
	Jeri Smart, Rolesville, NC	jsmart001@nc.rr.com
	Jesse Pope, Linville, NC	highcountrybirder@yahoo.com
	Karyl Gabriel, Huntersville, NC	kmcclusky@yahoo.com
SC Members-at-Large	Lewis Burke, Columbia, SC	lewisburkej@yahoo.com
	Irvin Pitts, Lexington, SC	pittsjam@windstream.net

EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chat Editor	Don Seriff, Charlotte, NC	chat@carolinabirdclub.org
Newsletter Editor	Steve Shultz, Apex, NC	newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org
Web site Editor	Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC	webeditor@carolinabirdclub.org
Immediate Past President	Marion Clark, Lexington, SC	mclark66@sc.rr.com

HEADQUARTERS SECRETARY

Carol Bowman	9 Quincy Place Pinehurst, NC 28374	hq@carolinabirdclub.org

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1809 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh NC 27612

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www.carolinabirdclub.org

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